

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2000-223456
(43)Date of publication of application : 11.08.2000

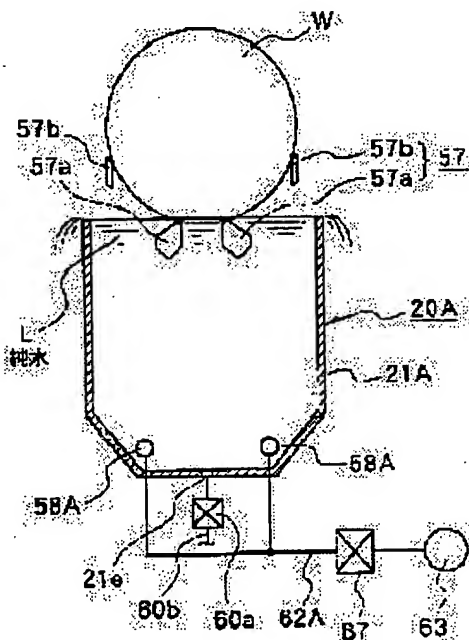
(51)Int.Cl. H01L 21/304
B08B 3/04
// G02F 1/1333

(21)Application number : 11-286761 (71)Applicant : TOKYO ELECTRON LTD
(22)Date of filing : 07.10.1999 (72)Inventor : YOKOMIZO KENJI

(30)Priority
Priority number : 98 185413 Priority date : 03.11.1998 Priority country : US

(54) SUBSTRATE-CLEANING PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREOF

(57)Abstract:
PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve products in yield by a method, where particles are prevented from readhering to a processed substrate, in a process where the processed substrate is immersed into a processing solution and a cleaning solution for processing and cleaning.
SOLUTION: In a substrate-cleaning processing method, where a semiconductor wafer W is dipped into a processing solution and a cleaning solution for cleaning and processing, the lower part of the wafer W is stopped once, when it comes into contact with the liquid level of pure water L when the semiconductor wafer W subjected to processing with a processing solution is immersed into an overflowing pure water L. As a result of this, particles contained in a processing solution left on the lower part of the wafer W are diffused together with a flow of overflowing pure water L and removed, and the particles can be prevented from readhering to the wafer, when the wafer W is reimmersed.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination] 12.03.2003
[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]
[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]
[Date of final disposal for application]
[Patent number]
[Date of registration]
[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]
[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

[Date of extinction of right]

Copyright (C); 1998,2003 Japan Patent Office

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIP are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The substrate washing art characterized by what the above-mentioned processed substrate washed the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate for by the penetrant remover at least in one side at the time of being exposed from processing liquid or a penetrant remover when immersed in the above-mentioned processing liquid or a penetrant remover in the substrate washing art which changes into a perpendicular condition, is immersed in processing liquid and a penetrant remover, and processes a processed substrate.

[Claim 2] The substrate washing art characterized by injecting and washing a penetrant remover to the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate in a substrate washing art according to claim 1.

[Claim 3] The substrate washing art characterized by carrying out predetermined time immersion and washing the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate in the oil level of a penetrant remover in a substrate washing art according to claim 1.

[Claim 4] It is a substrate washing art including the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate having stopped in the oil level of a penetrant remover in a substrate washing art according to claim 3.

[Claim 5] It is the substrate washing art characterized by overflowing from the washing tub in which the above-mentioned penetrant remover stores this penetrant remover in a substrate washing art according to claim 3 or 4.

[Claim 6] The above-mentioned processed substrate is a substrate washing art characterized by being the substrate with which the film of a hydrophilic property is intermingled on the front face of a hydrophobic material in a substrate washing art according to claim 1 to 5.

[Claim 7] In the substrate washing art which a processed substrate is changed into a perpendicular condition, is contacted to processing liquid and a penetrant remover, and processes it Processing of the above-mentioned processed substrate is performed under the ambient atmosphere in which a clarification gas flows from the upper part to a lower part. The substrate washing art characterized by the thing weaken the flow of the above-mentioned clarification gas, or it was made to make stop when conveying the above-mentioned processed substrate which processing with the above-mentioned processing liquid finished in the processing section of another processing liquid or the above-mentioned penetrant remover.

[Claim 8] The substrate washing art which changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition and is characterized by the thing made processing liquid and a penetrant remover contact, and it was made spray a clarification gas for toward the upper part from the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate when conveying the above-mentioned processed substrate which processing with the above-mentioned processing liquid finished in the substrate washing art to process in the processing section of another processing liquid or the above-mentioned penetrant remover.

[Claim 9] The processing tub which stores the processing liquid immersed in a processed substrate, and the washing tub which stores the penetrant remover immersed in the above-mentioned processed substrate, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means The substrate washing processor characterized by coming to provide a penetrant remover injection means to inject a penetrant remover toward the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate above the above-mentioned processing tub.

[Claim 10] The processing tub which stores the processing liquid immersed in a processed substrate, and the washing tub which stores the penetrant remover immersed in the above-mentioned processed substrate, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

maintenance means When the above-mentioned processed substrate which possesses the rise-and-fall control means which controls rise-and-fall actuation of the above-mentioned rise-and-fall means, and is held with the above-mentioned maintenance means by this rise-and-fall control means is immersed in the above-mentioned penetrant remover in the above-mentioned washing tub, The soak cleaning processor characterized by the thing it was made to stop the lower part of a processed substrate for in the condition of having been immersed in the oil level of a penetrant remover.

[Claim 11] The processing tub to which a processed substrate contacts processing liquid, and the washing tub to which the above-mentioned processed substrate contacts a penetrant remover, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means The substrate washing processor characterized by what the above-mentioned processing tub is arranged in the bottom of the ambient atmosphere in which a clarification gas flows from the upper part to a lower part, and the control means controlled possible [a halt or accommodation of the flow rate of the clarification gas which forms the above-mentioned ambient atmosphere] is provided for.

[Claim 12] The substrate washing processor characterized by providing the control means controlled to stop or weaken the flow rate of a clarification gas in a substrate washing processor according to claim 11 in case the above-mentioned processed substrate is conveyed from a processing tub to another processing tub or a washing tub.

[Claim 13] The processing tub to which a processed substrate contacts processing liquid, and the washing tub to which the above-mentioned processed substrate contacts a penetrant remover, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means The substrate washing processor characterized by the thing it comes to provide a clarification gas-injection means to spray a clarification gas toward the upper part from the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate in case the above-mentioned processed substrate which processing finished as the above-mentioned processing tub is conveyed to another processing tub or the above-mentioned washing tub.

[Claim 14] It is the substrate washing processor characterized by providing for a conveyance means by which the above-mentioned rise-and-fall means conveys a processed substrate between a processing tub and a washing tub in a substrate washing processor given in either claim 9 thru/or 11 or 13.

[Claim 15] The substrate washing processor characterized by providing further a conveyance means to convey a processed substrate between a processing tub and a washing tub apart from the above-mentioned rise-and-fall means in a substrate washing processor given in either claim 9 thru/or 11 or 13.

[Claim 16] It is the substrate washing processor characterized by being the overflow tub to which the above-mentioned washing tub overflows a penetrant remover in a substrate washing processor given in either claim 9 thru/or 11 or 13.

[Translation done.]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIP are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the substrate washing art and substrate washing processor which are immersed and process processed substrates, such as for example, a semi-conductor wafer and a LCD substrate, in a detail further at processing liquid and a penetrant remover about a substrate washing art and a substrate washing processor.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Generally in the production process of semiconductor fabrication machines and equipment, sequential conveyance of the processed substrates (a wafer etc. is told to below), such as a semi-conductor wafer, is carried out at the processing tub and washing tub in which processing liquid (drug solution), a penetrant remover (rinse), etc. were stored, and it is immersed in processing liquid or a penetrant remover, and while removing the particle and the organic substance adhering to a wafer etc., a metal contamination, or an oxide film, the substrate washing processor which processes desiccation etc. is adopted widely.

[0003] this kind of substrate washing processor — processing liquid (drug solution) — [— for example, HF+H₂O (hydrogen fluoride) (HF is told to below) — The washing tub which stores the processing tub which stores], such as NH₄OH+H₂O₂+H₂O (ammonia filtered water) and HCl+H₂O₂+H₂O (hydrochloric-acid filtered water), a penetrant remover (rinse, for example, pure water), etc., A rise-and-fall means to go up and down to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub possesses the wafer etc. through this wafer boat, the maintenance means, for example, the wafer boat, which holds two or more wafers, for example, 50 sheets, etc. in the perpendicular condition.

[0004] Moreover, the above-mentioned processing tub, the washing tub, the wafer boat, etc. are performed under a clean environment in washing processing of a wafer etc. under the ambient atmosphere of a downflow where a clarification gas, for example, clarification air, flows from the upper part to a lower part.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] By the way, while the oxide film as an insulator layer is generally formed in the front face of the material substrate made from silicon, as for the above-mentioned wafer etc., a predetermined pattern etc. is formed of etching. Thus, in the wafer with which the oxide film was formed in the front face of the material substrate made from silicon, although silicon is hydrophobicity, since an oxide film is a hydrophilic property, processing liquid remains in a wafer front face. In order to check this fact, when immersed in the processing liquid, for example, HF, stored by the processing tub (not shown), as are shown in drawing 18 (a), and it holds by the wafer boat a where two or more oxide film wafers Wa and the wafer Wb of BEASHIRIKON are arranged into the same slot, and it is shown in drawing 18 (b), processing liquid (HF) remains in the front face of the oxide film wafer Wa. When both the wafers Wa and Wb were thrown into a following processing tub and a following washing tub, as the particle A on the processing liquid (HF) which remained in the front face of the oxide film wafer Wa adhered to the front face of the oxide film wafer Wa and it was further shown in drawing 18 (c) in this condition, it became clear that the reattachment was carried out to BEASHIRIKONUEHA Wb which the particle A which adhered on processing liquid (HF) adjoins. Since particle adhered to front faces, such as a wafer, in the process which is immersed in processing liquid and a penetrant remover, and carries out washing processing of the wafer with which the oxide film was formed in the front face of the material substrate made from silicon so that clearly from this result, there was a problem of causing the fall of the product yield.

[0006] Moreover, when the oxide film formed in front faces, such as a wafer, by processing liquid, for example, HF, is etched, When pulling up Wafer W from a processing tub and carrying it in to a washing tub after being immersed in the processing liquid (HF) stored by the processing tub, as shown in drawing 19 (a) and (b) The processing liquid (HF) which remains on Wafer W flows and goes to the lower part side of Wafer W by the flow of the clarification gas of a downflow with gravity, the processing liquid in the condition, i.e., the wafer W upper part,

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

that the processing liquid of the upper part of the wafer W of a perpendicular condition goes out falls and goes, and the condition that an oxide film is exposed occurs. Thus, since etching of the part in which etching of the outcrop on Wafer W stopped and processing liquid remains was continued when the oxide film on Wafer W was exposed, the homogeneity of etching was spoiled and there was a problem that the product yield fell.

[0007] In the process in which this invention was made in view of the above-mentioned situation, is immersed in processing liquid and a penetrant remover in a processed substrate, and washing processing is performed While re-washing removes the dust in the processing liquid which remains on the front face of a processed substrate and preventing the reattachment of particle after processing with processing liquid It sets it as the 1st purpose to aim at improvement in the product yield, and while preventing the flow to the lower part of the processing liquid on a processed substrate after processing with processing liquid and aiming at improvement in etch uniformity, it sets it as the 2nd purpose to aim at improvement in the product yield.

[0008] [Means for Solving the Problem] In the substrate washing art which invention according to claim 1 changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is immersed in processing liquid and a penetrant remover, and is processed in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose The above-mentioned processed substrate is characterized by what the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate was washed for by the penetrant remover at least in one side at the time of being exposed from processing liquid or a penetrant remover, in case it is immersed in the above-mentioned processing liquid or a penetrant remover. Here, the time of a processed substrate being exposed from processing liquid or a penetrant remover is the semantics containing all in the condition of pulling up a processed substrate from processing liquid or a penetrant remover, and the condition of discharging below the processing liquid or the penetrant remover in which a processed substrate is immersed.

[0009] In the substrate washing art of the claim 1 above-mentioned publication, as an approach of washing the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate, a penetrant remover is injected and washed to the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate, or (claim 2) predetermined time immersion can be carried out and the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate can be washed in the oil level of a penetrant remover, for example (claim 3). Here, the lower part of a processed substrate is contained also when stopped and immersed into the oil level of a penetrant remover (claim 4). In this case, it is more desirable to overflow a penetrant remover from the washing tub which stores this penetrant remover (claim 5). Moreover, it will be the requisite that the above-mentioned processed substrate is a substrate with which the film of a hydrophilic property is intermingled on the front face of a hydrophobic material (claim 6). Here, as a hydrophobic material, BEASHIRIKONUEHA, a metal wafer, etc. correspond, for example and an oxide film or other insulator layers correspond as film of a hydrophilic property, for example.

[0010] In the substrate washing art which invention according to claim 7 changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is contacted to processing liquid and a penetrant remover, and is processed Processing of the above-mentioned processed substrate is performed under the ambient atmosphere in which a clarification gas flows from the upper part to a lower part. In case the above-mentioned processed substrate which processing with the above-mentioned processing liquid finished is conveyed in the processing section of another processing liquid or the above-mentioned penetrant remover, it is characterized by the thing weaken the flow of the above-mentioned clarification air, or it was made to make stop.

[0011] Moreover, invention according to claim 8 changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, processing liquid and a penetrant remover are made to contact, and it sets to the substrate washing art to process. In case the above-mentioned processed substrate which processing with the above-mentioned processing liquid finished is conveyed in the processing section of another processing liquid or the above-mentioned penetrant remover, the thing it was made to spray a clarification gas for toward the upper part from the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate is carried out as the description. In this case, as the above-mentioned clarification gas, clarification air or nitrogen (N₂) gas can be used, for example.

[0012] Moreover, invention according to claim 9 is what embodies claim 1 and a substrate washing art given in two. The processing tub which stores the processing liquid immersed in a processed substrate, and the washing tub which stores the penetrant remover immersed in the above-mentioned processed substrate, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means It is characterized by coming to provide a penetrant remover injection means to inject a penetrant remover toward the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate above the above-mentioned processing tub.

[0013] Moreover, invention according to claim 10 is what embodies claim 1 and a substrate washing art given in three. The processing tub which stores the processing liquid immersed in a processed substrate, and the

washing tub which stores the penetrant remover immersed in the above-mentioned processed substrate. In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means. When the above-mentioned processed substrate which possesses the rise-and-fall control means which controls rise-and-fall actuation of the above-mentioned rise-and-fall means, and is held with the above-mentioned maintenance means by this rise-and-fall control means is immersed in the above-mentioned penetrant remover in the above-mentioned washing tub, It is characterized by the thing it was made to stop the lower part of a processed substrate for in the condition of having been immersed in the oil level of a penetrant remover.

[0014] Moreover, invention according to claim 11 is what embodies a substrate washing art according to claim 7. The processing tub to which a processed substrate contacts processing liquid, and the washing tub to which the above-mentioned processed substrate contacts a penetrant remover, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means. A clarification gas arranges the above-mentioned processing tub in the bottom of the ambient atmosphere which flows from the upper part to a lower part. It is characterized by what the control means controlled possible [a halt or accommodation of the flow rate of the clarification gas which forms the above-mentioned ambient atmosphere] is provided for. In case a processed substrate is conveyed from a processing tub to another processing tub or a washing tub, make it in this case, more desirable to provide the control means controlled to stop or weaken the flow rate of a clarification gas (claim 12).

[0015] Moreover, invention according to claim 13 is what embodies a substrate washing art according to claim 8. The processing tub to which a processed substrate contacts processing liquid, and the washing tub to which the above-mentioned processed substrate contacts a penetrant remover, In the substrate washing processor possessing a maintenance means to hold the above-mentioned processed substrate in the perpendicular condition, and a rise-and-fall means to go up and down the above-mentioned processed substrate to the above-mentioned processing tub and a washing tub through the above-mentioned maintenance means. In case the above-mentioned processed substrate which processing finished with the above-mentioned processing liquid is conveyed to another processing tub or the above-mentioned washing tub, it is characterized by the thing it comes to provide a clarification gas-injection means to spray a clarification gas toward the upper part from the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate. In this case, the above-mentioned rise-and-fall means may possess a conveyance means to convey a processed substrate between a processing tub and a washing tub (claim 14). Moreover, apart from the above-mentioned processing means, a conveyance means to convey a processed substrate between a processing tub and a washing tub may be provided further (claim 15). Moreover, it is better to be the overflow tub which overflows a penetrant remover preferably, although it will be easy to be the thing of arbitration if the above-mentioned washing tub stores a penetrant remover (claim 16).

[0016] In this invention, the lower part of the above-mentioned processed substrate means the range near [such as for example, a circuit pattern formed in a processed substrate from the lower limit section of a processed substrate,] the product field.

[0017] In the process which according to invention of 6, 9, and ten publications changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is immersed in processing liquid and a penetrant remover and carries out washing processing claim 1- The dust in the processing liquid which remains on the front face of a processed substrate is removable because a processed substrate washes the lower part of a processed substrate by the penetrant remover at least in one side at the time of being exposed from processing liquid or a penetrant remover in case it is immersed in processing liquid or a penetrant remover. Therefore, while preventing the reattachment of the particle to a processed substrate, improvement in the product yield can be aimed at.

[0018] Moreover, according to invention according to claim 7 or 11, it sets in the process which changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is contacted to processing liquid and a penetrant remover and carries out washing processing. By performing processing of a processed substrate under the ambient atmosphere in which a clarification gas flows from the upper part to a lower part, weakening the flow of a clarification gas, in case the processed substrate which processing with processing liquid finished is conveyed in the processing section of another processing liquid or a penetrant remover, or making it stop. The flow to the lower part of the processing liquid on a processed substrate can be prevented after processing with processing liquid. Therefore, while being able to aim at improvement in etch uniformity with the processing liquid of a processed substrate, improvement in the product yield can be aimed at.

[0019] Moreover, according to invention according to claim 8 or 13, it sets in the process which changes a

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is contacted to processing liquid and a penetrant remover and carries out washing processing. In case the processed substrate which processing with processing liquid finished is conveyed in the processing section of another processing liquid or a penetrant remover, the flow to the lower part of the processing liquid on a processed substrate can be prevented after processing with processing liquid by spraying a clarification gas toward the upper part from the lower part of a processed substrate. Therefore, while being able to aim at improvement in etch uniformity with the processing liquid of a processed substrate, improvement in the product yield can be aimed at.

[0020]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Below, the gestalt of implementation of this invention is explained at a detail based on a drawing. This operation gestalt explains the case where the substrate washing processor concerning this invention is applied to the washing processing system of a semi-conductor wafer.

[0021] Drawing 1 is the outline top view showing an example of the washing processing system which applied the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[0022] Carrying-in / taking-out section 2 for the above-mentioned washing processing system to carry in, the container 1, for example, the carrier, contained in the level condition, and take out the semi-conductor wafer W (for Wafer W to be told to below) which is a processed substrate. It mainly consists of, the delivery sections 4, for example, the interface section, of Wafer W which are located between the processing section 3 which carries out desiccation processing while carrying out liquid processing of the wafer W by processing liquid (drug solution), a penetrant remover, etc., and carrying-in / taking-out section 2 and the processing section 3, and perform delivery of Wafer W, justification, posture conversion, spacing adjustment, etc.

[0023] While carrier carrying-in section 5a and carrier taking-out section 5b are put side by side in the 1 side edge section of a washing processing system, as for the above-mentioned carrying-in / taking-out section 2, the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6 is formed. In this case, the conveyance device which is not illustrated is arranged between carrier carrying-in section 5a and the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6, and it is constituted so that a carrier 1 may be conveyed from carrier carrying-in section 5a according to this conveyance device to the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6.

[0024] Moreover, a carrier lifter (not shown) is arranged in carrier taking-out section 5b and the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6, respectively, and it is constituted so that reception from delivery in the carrier standby section (not shown) in which the empty carrier 1 was formed by this carrier lifter in the carrying-in / taking-out section 2 upper part, and the carrier standby section can be performed. In this case, the movable carrier carrier robot (not shown) is arranged in the horizontal direction (X, the direction of Y), and the perpendicular direction (Z direction) by the carrier standby section, and the empty carrier 1 conveyed by this carrier carrier robot from the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6 can be taken out to carrier taking-out section 5b, while aligning. Moreover, in the carrier standby section, it is possible not only an empty carrier but to make the carrier 1 in the condition that Wafer W was contained stand by.

[0025] Body of container 1a which the above-mentioned carrier 1 has opening in 1 side, and has the retention groove (not shown) which sets two or more wafers, for example, 25 sheets, W to a wall, and holds spacing for them suitably to it at a level condition. It consists of lid 1b which opens and closes opening of this body of container 1a, and by operating it with the lid-open close equipment 8 which mentions later the engaging-and-releasing device (not shown) incorporated in lid 1b, it is constituted so that lid 1b may be opened and closed.

[0026] Opening of the above-mentioned wafer taking-out admission into a club 6 is carried out to the above-mentioned interface section 4, and lid-open close equipment 8 is arranged by the opening. Lid 1b of a carrier 1 is opened or blockaded by this lid-open close equipment 8. Therefore, after removing lid 1b of the carrier 1 which contains the unsettled wafer W conveyed by the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6 with lid-open close equipment 8, enabling taking out of the wafer W in a carrier 1 and taking out all the wafers W, lid 1b can be again blockaded with lid-open close equipment 8. Moreover, after removing lid 1b of the empty carrier 1 conveyed by the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6 from the carrier standby section with lid-open close equipment 8, enabling carrying in of the wafer W into a carrier 1 and carrying in all the wafers W, lid 1b can be again blockaded with lid-open close equipment 8. In addition, near the opening of the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6, the mapping sensor 9 which detects the number of sheets of the wafer W contained in the carrier 1 is arranged.

[0027] In the above-mentioned interface section 4, while holding two or more wafers, for example, 25 sheets, W in the level condition The wafer conveyance arm 10 which delivers Wafer W in the level condition between the carriers 1 of the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6. The spacing adjustment means (not shown), for example, the pitch changer, which sets two or more wafers, for example, 52 sheets, W, and holds predetermined spacing for them in the perpendicular condition. The posture inverter 12 which is located between the wafer conveyance arm 10 and a pitch changer, and changes two or more wafers, for example, 25 sheets, W into a level condition and a perpendicular condition. The notch aligner 13 which detects the notch prepared in the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

perpendicular condition at the wafer W by which posture conversion was carried out, and performs alignment of Wafer W is arranged. Moreover, the conveyance way 14 connected with the processing section 3 is established in the interface section 4, and the wafer conveyance means 15, for example, a wafer conveyance chuck, is arranged in this conveyance way 14 free [migration].

[0028] In this case, the above-mentioned wafer conveyance arm 10 comes to annex in a carrier 1, two attaching parts 10a and 10b, for example, the arm objects, which contain two or more wafers W, while taking out and conveying two or more wafers W from the carrier 1 of the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6. These arm objects 10a and 10b are constituted so that Wafer W may be delivered between the carriers 1 and the posture inverters 12 which were laid in the wafer taking-out admission into a club 6, while being carried in the upper part of the movable drive base 11 to a horizontal direction (X, the direction of Y), a perpendicular direction (Z direction), and a hand of cut (the direction of theta) and holding Wafer W independently in the level condition, respectively. Therefore, the unsettled wafer W can be held by one arm object 10a, and the wafer [finishing / processing] W can be held by arm object 10b of another side.

[0029] Two or more processing units 16-19 possessing the substrate washing processor concerning this invention that, on the other hand, removes the particle and the organic substance adhering to Wafer W, a metal, or an oxide film in the above-mentioned processing section 3 are arranged in the shape of a straight line. The movable wafer conveyance chuck 15 (wafer conveyance means) is arranged in the conveyance way 14 established in each [these] units 16-19 and the location which counters to X, the direction (horizontal) of Y, the Z direction (perpendicular direction), and the hand of cut (the direction of theta). In this case, chuck washing section 16a is arranged into the 1st processing unit 16. In addition, it is not necessary to necessarily arrange chuck washing section 16a in the 1st processing unit 16, and it may be arranged separately [the 1st processing unit 16 or the other processing units 17, 18, and 19], and may be arranged between the processing section 3 and the interface section 4.

[0030] Next, the substrate washing processor concerning this invention is explained with reference to drawing 2 thru/or drawing 8.

[0031] O It is the sectional view in which the outline side elevation and drawing 3 which show the first operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor with which first operation gestalt drawing 2 was arranged in the processing unit 16 of the above 1st show the outline rear view of a substrate washing processor, and drawing 4 shows the important section of a substrate washing processor.

[0032] 1st container 22a rectangle tubed for example, which holds the processing tub 21 in which the substrate washing processor 20 stores, the processing liquid (drug solution), for example, HF, immersed in Wafer W as shown in drawing 2, It comes to adjoin in container 22 of ** 3rd rectangle tubed for example, which comes to adjoin in container 22 of ** 2nd rectangle tubed for example, which holds washing tub 21A which stores, penetrant remover (pure water), for example, rinse, other than drug solution, b, and holds chuck washing section 16a in 1st container 22a c (refer to drawing 3). In this case, two or more above-mentioned containers 22a-22c and the air between the filter units 70 mentioned later are isolated in the outer wall of a washing processor so that the air of the washing processor exterior may not be contacted.

[0033] 1st container of the above 22a and 2nd container 22b (on behalf of 1st container 22a, it explains below) have the flank flueway 24 and the pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis flueway 25 which are mutually open for free passage while having the processing room 23 in which the processing tub 21 is held and in which pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis 23a was prepared. Moreover, the filter unit 70 for supplying into the processing room 23, the gas, for example, the clarification air, defecated above the processing room 23 in container 22a, is arranged (refer to drawing 3 and drawing 4). In addition, in the filter unit 70, the fan (not shown) who drives by the motor which is not illustrated possesses.

[0034] In this case, the flank flueway 24 is formed with the 1st partition wall 28 which has the side attachment wall 26 of the equipment near side of container 22a, and the standing-up wall 27 which stands up from pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis 23a of the processing room 23 and the wall which extended the standing-up wall 27 caudad. Moreover, the pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis flueway 25 is formed with the 2nd partition wall 29 bent at an abbreviation horizontal from the bottom plate 30 of container 22a, and the lower part of the 1st partition wall 28.

[0035] Moreover, it is established, the exhaust port 33 which connects to the bottom plate 30 of 1st container 22a the exhaust pipe 32 which interposes the exhaust air means 31, for example, a vacuum pump, and the effluent opening 34, for example, drain opening. In this case, while surrounding opening near the opening of an exhaust port 33, the convex wall 35 for vapor liquid separation which stands up up is formed from the bottom plate 30 (container base), and it can prevent that the moisture containing the drug solution, for example, HF etc., mixed into the air exhausted by this convex wall 35 from an exhaust port 33 through the flank flueway 24 and the pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis flueway 25 flows in in an exhaust pipe 32. In addition, an exhaust port 33 can

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

be formed in the location of the arbitration of a bottom plate 30. Moreover, the drain pipe 37 which interposed the drain valve 36 is connected to the drain opening 34, and it is constituted so that the effluent which collected on the bottom plate 30 of container 22a can be discharged outside.

[0036] Moreover, it arranges in the opening upper part of the above-mentioned flank flueway 24 possible adjustment, the air-current adjustment means 38, for example, the air-current baffle plate, which adjusts the clearance between the standing-up walls 27 with a wrap,] this flank flueway 24 and near the upper limit section of the standing-up wall 27. As shown in drawing 4, the air-current baffle plate 38 opening of the flank flueway 24 In this case, wrap level piece 38a, It mainly consists of piece of suspension 38b which hangs caudad from the upper limit of the standing-up wall 27 from the processing tub side tip of this level piece 38a. It is formed possible [migration adjustment, i.e., adjustment of the clearance between a side attachment wall 26 and the processing tub 21,] by ****ing and carrying out the stop of the mounting bolt 39 which penetrates the long hole (not shown) drilled in level piece 38a to the attachment section 40 which projects in the method of inside from the side attachment wall 26 of container 22a.

[0037] By changing the attaching position of level piece 38a in the air-current baffle plate 38 formed as mentioned above, the clearance between a side attachment wall 26 and the processing tub 21 can be adjusted, and the displacement of the air which flows the inside of the processing section 21, i.e., a processing tub, and the processing room 23 can be adjusted to arbitration. Therefore, in container 22a, the amount of the defecated air which passes a filter unit 70 and is supplied in the processing room 23, and the amount of the air which flows the flank flueway 24 can be adjusted so that it may become equal. Moreover, it also becomes possible to adjust so that total of the amount of the defecated air which is supplied in the processing room 23 in each containers 22a-22c and the amount of the air which flows each flank flueway 24 of each containers 22a-22c may be made equal.

[0038] Thus, it can prevent that the ambient atmosphere in the processing room 23 flows out of other than an exhaust system by making equivalent the amount of the defecated air which is supplied in the processing room 23, and the amount of the air exhausted in the equipment exterior.

[0039] In addition, it can also adjust lower than the exhaust pressure of the processing room 23 of other containers in which the processing tub 21 which does not use a drug solution for the exhaust pressure of the processing room 23 in which the processing tub 21 which uses a drug solution, for example, HF, in this case is held is held. Therefore, it can prevent flowing in other containers with which a drug solution ambient atmosphere does not use a drug solution.

[0040] Although the above-mentioned explanation explained the case where the air-current baffle plate 38 was adjusted manually, it is also possible to operate the air-current baffle plate 38, for example by the driving means of a cylinder, a motor, etc.

[0041] On the other hand, the exhaust-pressure detection means 41 is arranged between the standing-up wall 27 and the air-current baffle plate 38, and the pneumatic pressure exhausted by this exhaust-pressure detection means 41 can be detected now from the exterior. in addition, the mounting hole (not shown) drilled in the opposite location of a side attachment wall 26 and the standing-up wall 27 as the exhaust-pressure detection means 41 was shown in drawing 4 in this case — respectively — air-water — it consists of pipe member 44a which it is supported with the joint 43 ****(ed) densely, and is exposed between the standing-up wall 27 and piece of suspension 38b, and a total of 44 pressure detection b connected with pipe member 44a in the container exterior.

[0042] On the other hand, the lower room 45 which consists of pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis 23a of this processing room 23, side-attachment-wall 26a which adjoins the side attachment wall 26 of an equipment near side, side-attachment-wall 26b by the side of equipment regions of back, and a standing-up wall 27 is formed in the lower part of the above-mentioned processing room 23, and the volume of this lower room 45 is formed in it so that it may become larger than the volume of the processing liquid, for example, HF, stored in the processing tub 21 at least, or pure water. Thus, the reason for having made the volume of the lower room 45 larger than the volume of the processing liquid stored in the processing tub 21 is because reservation of insurance was aimed at by catching in the lower room 45, even if the processing tub 21 should be damaged and the processing liquid in the processing tub 21 should flow out caudad. Moreover, pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis 23a of the processing room 23 is formed in the shape of a downhill grade toward the equipment regions-of-back side from the equipment near side, and the effluent opening 46, for example, drain opening, is established by side-attachment-wall 26b by the side of the equipment regions of back by the side of the inclination lower part. In addition, the drain pipe 47 which interposed the drain valve which is not illustrated is connected to the drain opening 46.

[0043] Moreover, the storage space 48 which carries out opening is formed in the side, i.e., equipment regions of back, side with pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis 23a of the above-mentioned processing room 23, and the 1st partition wall 28 and the 2nd partition wall 29, and the facility equipment for supply / discharge of the processing

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

liquid which consists of piping 52 grade which connects a circulating pump 49, a damper 50, a heater 51, and these into this storage space 48 is contained. Storage space 48 is formed down the processing room 23. Thus, in this storage space 48 For example, by containing the facility equipment for supply / discharge of the processing liquid which consists of piping 52 grade which connects a circulating pump 49, a damper 50, a heater 51, and these Space 53 by the side of equipment regions of back can be felt refreshed, and in this regions-of-back space 53, only the piping 52 for supply and discharge can be formulated, it can pipe, and a deployment of a tooth space can be aimed at.

[0044] In addition, the space section 54 which holds the instruments which are not illustrated and an actuation equipment is formed in the upper part side of the side attachment wall 26 of the equipment near side of a container 22, and opening 54a of this space section 54 is equipped with covering 55 removable. Moreover, the inspection hole 56 for viewing the interior of a container is formed in side-attachment-wall 26b by the side of the equipment regions of back of container 22a.

[0045] Moreover, while connecting mutually container 22a of the above 1st, the 2nd container 22b, and 3rd container 22c By being open for free passage through either [at least] the flank flueway 24 or the pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis flueway 25, and establishing an exhaust port 33 in the bottom plate 30 of 1st container 22a Each containers 22a and 22b and the air which flows the inside of 22c can be discharged outside through the exhaust port 33 in which it was prepared by the 1st container 22. Therefore, since the ambient atmosphere with which a drug solution, pure water, etc. which disperses besides the processing tub 21 mixed at the time of processing, and were polluted at it in the clarification air which carries out a downflow from a filter unit 70, and flows in the processing section 21 of the washing processor 20, i.e., a processing tub, and the processing room 23 at the time of washing processing of Wafer W can discharge outside through a flank flueway 24 and a pars-basilaris-ossis-occipitalis flueway 25, improvement in the precision of washing processing can aim at.

[0046] On the other hand, while the above-mentioned processing tub 21 surrounds the method of an opening outside of inner lift 21a which holds Wafer W, and this inner lift 21a It consists of outside tub 21b which catches the processing liquid overflowed from inner lift 21a. In inner lift 21a It is arranged while delivering two or more wafers, for example, 50 sheets, W between the wafer conveyance chucks 15, the maintenance means 57, for example, the wafer boat, which holds these wafers W in the perpendicular condition and which can be gone up and down.

[0047] The above-mentioned wafer boat 57 possesses lower maintenance rod 57a of the pair holding the lower limit side of Wafer W, and flank maintenance rod 57b of the pair holding the upper both sides of these lower maintenance rod 57a. It connects with the rise-and-fall means 80 formed in a ball-thread device or a cylinder, and is constituted possible [rise and fall], and this wafer boat 57 is immersed in the processing liquid which descends and is stored in the processing tub 21, and it goes up and pulls up a wafer boat 57 and Wafer W from the processing tub 21. Rise-and-fall actuation of this wafer boat 57 is controlled by the control signal transmitted to the rise-and-fall means 80 from the rise-and-fall control section 81 which is a rise-and-fall control means.

[0048] Moreover, the supply nozzle 58 which supplies processing liquid in this inner lift 21a is arranged by the lower part in inner lift 21a. In this case, effluent opening 21c is established by the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of inner lift 21a, and the drain pipe 59 which interposed the drain valve which is not illustrated to this effluent opening 21c is connected. Moreover, 21d of effluent openings is established by the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of outside tub 21b, and while the drain pipe 60 which interposed the drain valve which is not illustrated is connected to 21d of this effluent opening, it connects with the piping 52 of the above-mentioned facility equipment for supply / discharge through the change-over valve which is not illustrated. Thus, by connecting the piping 52 of a facility equipment to 21d of effluent openings of outside tub 21b, circulation supply of the processing liquid, for example, HF, overflowed from inner lift 21a can be carried out, and washing processing of Wafer W can be presented.

[0049] On the other hand, pure-water supply nozzle 58A by which washing tub 21A arranged in 2nd container 22b supplies a penetrant remover, for example, pure water, to the lower part in washing tub 21A as shown in drawing 2 and drawing 5 is arranged, and this pure-water supply nozzle 58A is connected to the pure-water source of supply 63 through the 1st pure-water supply pipe 62. Moreover, it is arranged in the upper both sides of washing tub 21A in the penetrant remover, for example, pure water, toward the lower part of the wafer W thrown in in washing tub 21A, and lower maintenance rod 57a, the penetrant remover injection means 64, for example, the pure-water injection nozzle, of a pair injected in the shape of ****. Here, as it is indicated in drawing 6 as the lower part of Wafer W, the field (hatching shows by drawing 6 .) of a up to near the product fields Wp formed in Wafer W from the lower limit section We of Wafer W, such as a circuit pattern, is said. The above-mentioned pure-water injection nozzle 64 is connected to the above-mentioned pure-water source of supply 63 through the 2nd pure-water supply pipe 65. In this case, the 1st pure-water supply pipe 62 and the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

2nd pure-water supply pipe 65 are connected to the pure-water source of supply 63 through a means for switching 66, for example, a change-over valve, and the switch possibility of or the coincidence supply of supply of pure water is attained at pure-water supply nozzle 58A and the pure-water injection nozzle 64.

[0050] In addition, the closing motion valve 67 is interposed between a change-over valve 66 and the pure-water source of supply 63, it extracts to the pure-water injection nozzle 64 side of the 2nd pure-water supply pipe 65 as the closing motion valve 68, respectively, and 69 is interposed. Moreover, effluent opening 21e is prepared in the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis of washing tub 21A, and drain pipe 60b which interposed drain valve 60a in this effluent opening 21e is connected. Moreover, also in washing tub 21A, the same wafer boat 57 as the processing tub 21 is arranged by the rise-and-fall means rise-and-fall control means (not shown [both]) possible [rise and fall].

[0051] As mentioned above, by arranging the pure-water injection nozzle 64 in washing tub 21A Before being immersed, the penetrant remover L, for example, the pure water, stored in washing tub 21A, the wafer W by which it was immersed, the processing liquid, for example, HF, stored in the processing tub 21, and drug solution processing was carried out Washing removal of the particle adhering to the processing liquid which remains on the lower front face of Wafer W can be carried out by injecting pure water L in the shape of **** from the pure-water injection nozzle 64 the lower part of Wafer W, and near lower maintenance rod 57a. Therefore, it is immersed, the penetrant remover L, for example, the pure water, stored in washing tub 21A after the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out had removed the particle adhering to the drug solution (processing liquid) which remains on the lower front face of Wafer W after drug solution processing, and washing processing is performed.

[0052] In addition, although the above-mentioned operation gestalt explained the case where the lower part of the wafer W before arranging the pure-water injection nozzle 64 in the upper part of washing tub 21A and being supplied in washing tub 21A was washed It is not necessary to necessarily consider as such structure, and the pure-water injection nozzle 64 is arranged in the upper part of the above-mentioned processing tub 21, and pure water is injected in the shape of ****, and you may make it wash it like the lower part of Wafer W and lower maintenance rod 57a which were able to be pulled up from the processing tub 21. Moreover, the pure-water injection nozzle 64 is arranged in the both sides of washing tub 21A and the processing tub 21, and you may make it remove the particle which injects pure water in the shape of **** towards the lower part of Wafer W and lower maintenance rod 57a which were able to be pulled up from the processing tub 21, and the lower part of the wafer W before being supplied in washing tub 21A and lower maintenance rod 57a, and adheres to the lower part of Wafer W. Thus, the particle adhering to Wafer W can be removed still more certainly by washing the lower part of Wafer W on the both sides immediately after drug solution processing and in front of washing processing.

[0053] O Second operation gestalt drawing 7 is the outline sectional view showing the important section of the second operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[0054] The second operation gestalt is the case where a means different from the above-mentioned first operation gestalt removes the particle adhering to the lower part of the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out. In this case, substrate washing processor 20A is the structure which removed the pure-water injection nozzle 64 in the above-mentioned first operation gestalt. The wafer boat 57 which comes to connect with the pure-water source of supply 63 pure-water supply nozzle 58A arranged in the pars basilaris ossis occipitalis in washing tub 21A through pure-water supply pipe 62A, and possesses lower maintenance rod 57a of a pair and flank maintenance rod 57b is constituted possible [rise and fall] by the rise-and-fall means which is not illustrated. In addition, since other parts are the same as the above-mentioned first operation gestalt, the same sign is given to the same part and explanation is omitted.

[0055] The wafer W by which it was immersed, the processing liquid, for example, HF, stored in the processing tub 21, and drug solution processing was carried out in substrate washing processor 20A constituted as mentioned above In case it is immersed into the penetrant remover L, for example, pure water, overflowed from washing tub 21A, as it is stored in washing tub 21A, and it is shown in drawing 7 A rise-and-fall means (refer to drawing 4) is controlled, and in the condition of having been soaked in the oil level of pure water L, in pure water lower maintenance rod 57a of the lower part of Wafer W or a wafer boat 57 diffuses quickly predetermined time, for example, the particle which stopped for 0.5 seconds and adhered to the lower part of Wafer W, and can wash it. That is, the particle adhering to the lower part of Wafer W is ridden and diffused with the flow of overflow. Thus, after removing the particle adhering to the lower part of the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out, it can be immersed into the pure water L stored in washing tub 21A in Wafer W, and washing processing can be performed. Therefore, the reattachment of the particle to Wafer W top can be prevented.

[0056] O Third operation gestalt drawing 8 is the outline sectional view showing an example of the third operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

[0057] The third operation gestalt is the case where the etching ununiformity in the case of performing the drug solution of Wafer W and washing processing under the ambient atmosphere of a downflow where a clarification gas, for example, clarification air, flows from the upper part to a lower part is canceled. That is, while pulling up the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out from the processing tub 21 and conveying it to another processing tub 21 or washing tub 21A, it is the case where the ununiformity of etching by flowing to the lower part side of Wafer W by the flow of gravity and the clarification gas of a downflow, for example, clarification air, the processing liquid, for example, HF, which remains to Wafer W, and HF of the upper part of Wafer W going out is prevented.

[0058] In this case, substrate line top processor 20B of the third operation gestalt is constituted controllable by the signal from a control section 73 in the rotation driving means, for example, the drive of a fan motor 72, of the fan 71 of the filter unit 70 arranged above the processing tub 21 and washing tub 21A (a drawing shows the case of the processing tub 21.).

[0059] In addition, in the third operation gestalt, since other parts are the same as the above-mentioned first operation gestalt and the second operation gestalt, the same sign is given to the same part and explanation is omitted.

[0060] The wafer W by which it was immersed, the processing liquid, for example, HF, in the processing tub 21, and drug solution processing was carried out by constituting as mentioned above is pulled up from the processing tub 21. When conveying to another processing tub 21 or washing tub 21A, rotation of a fan motor 72 is made into a low speed with the control signal from the above-mentioned control section 73. The amount of clarification air, i.e., the amount of a downflow It can weaken as compared with the decreasing state of downflows shown as a continuous line from the usual condition shown in drawing 8 with an alternate long and short dash line, i.e., the amount under processing of Wafer W and washing, and the flow by the side of the processing liquid, for example, the lower part of HF, which remains to Wafer W can be controlled. Therefore, since the amount from which it flows and falls from the upper part of Wafer W, the processing liquid, for example, HF, which remains to the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out, can be lessened, homogeneous improvement in etching of the oxide film formed in the wafer W front face can be aimed at. In addition, the inside of processing of Wafer W, and while it is under washing and Wafer W is not conveyed, generating of the particle in a processing section ambient atmosphere is suppressed in the usual amount of downflows.

[0061] In addition, although lost, rotation of a fan motor 72 is suspended, the amount of downflows of clarification air is made into zero, and you may make it decrease the amount which likes the amount which flows under the processing liquid, for example, the HF, which the fan motor 72 of a filter unit 70 is made into a low speed, and the amount of clarification air is decreased, and remains to Wafer W, and falls off and which flows and falls from the upper part of Wafer W similarly in the above-mentioned explanation.

[0062] O Fourth operation gestalt drawing 9 is the outline sectional view showing the fourth operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[0063] The fourth operation gestalt is the case where it enables it to aim at homogeneous improvement in etching of the oxide film which prevents positively flowing and falling to the lower part side of Wafer W, the processing liquid, for example, HF, which remains to Wafer W, and is formed in the front face of Wafer W in it, when conveying the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out to another processing tub 21 or washing tub 21A.

[0064] In this case, substrate washing processor 20C comes to provide, the clarification gas-injection means 74, for example, N2 gas injection nozzle, which sprays a clarification gas, for example, clarification air, or nitrogen (N2) gas on the both sides of the upper part of the processing tub 21 and washing tub 21A (a drawing shows the case of the processing tub 21.) toward the upper part from the lower part of the wafer W which was able to be pulled up from the processing tub 21. These N2 gas injection nozzle 74 is connected to the source 76 of N2 gas supply through the N2 gas supply line 75 which interposes the closing motion valve 77.

[0065] In addition, in the fourth operation gestalt, since other parts are the same as the above-mentioned first operation gestalt and the second operation gestalt, the same sign is given to the same part and explanation is omitted.

[0066] The wafer W by which it was immersed, the processing liquid, for example, HF, stored in the processing tub 21 by constituting as mentioned above, and drug solution processing was carried out is pulled up from the processing tub 21. When conveying to another processing tub 21 or washing tub 21A, the amount to which it flows and falls from the above-mentioned N2 gas injection nozzle 74 from the upper part of Wafer W, the processing liquid, for example, HF, which remains to Wafer W by spraying N2 gas toward the upper part from the lower part of Wafer W, can be lessened. Therefore, homogeneous improvement in etching of the oxide film formed in the wafer W front face can be aimed at.

[0067] In addition, although the above-mentioned explanation explained the case where it was made to spray N₂ gas towards the upper part from the lower part of the wafer W which N₂ gas injection nozzle 74 was arranged above the processing tub 21, and was able to be pulled up from the processing tub 21, it is not necessary to necessarily consider as such structure. For example, N₂ gas injection nozzle 74 is arranged above washing tub 21A, and you may make it spray N₂ gas towards the upper part from the lower part of the wafer W thrown into washing tub 21A. Moreover, N₂ gas injection nozzle 74 is arranged while conveying the wafer W by which drug solution processing was carried out to another processing tub 21 or washing tub 21A, and you may make it spray N₂ gas like the above. Furthermore, you may make it prepare N₂ gas injection nozzle 74A for example, in the lower part side of the wafer conveyance chuck 15, as shown in drawing 10.

[0068] in addition — the above-mentioned operation gestalt — conveyance of Wafer W — the wafer conveyance chuck 15 — carrying out — the injection (descent) to the processing tub 21 of Wafer W, or washing tub 21A — pulling up (rise) — although the case where it carried out by the wafer boat 57 was explained, the substrate washing processor concerning this invention is not necessarily limited to such structure. for example, conveyance to the processing tub 21 of Wafer W, and washing tub 21A and as opposed to [as shown in drawing 11 , form processed substrate conveyance means, for example wafer conveyance chuck, 15A in the level direction of X and a level perpendicular direction (Z direction) movable, and] the processing tub's 21 or washing tub 21A injection (descent) of Wafer W — and — pulling up (rise) — you may form so that it can carry out. In addition, wafer conveyance chuck 15A has structure which came to provide abbreviation inverted-L-shaped maintenance frame 15b with which pivotable level support shaft 15a of a pair is equipped, respectively, and constructed horizontally lower maintenance rod 15c and 15d of flank maintenance rods across the lower limit section of each maintenance frame 15b, and its upper part, respectively in this case. And level support shaft 15A rotates by the driving means which is not illustrated, and two or more wafers, for example, 50 sheets, W are held, and it is constituted so that it can move to the level direction of X and a level perpendicular direction (Z direction).

[0069] Moreover, although the above-mentioned operation gestalt explained the case where the washing processor of this invention was applied to the washing processing system of a semi-conductor wafer, of course, it is applicable also to washing processors other than a semi-conductor wafer (for example, a LCD substrate).

[0070] [Example] * Explain the experimental result for measuring the amount of particle (example) which carries out the reattachment to the wafer W at the time of using the substrate washing processor of the second operation gestalt of the example-1 above, and the amount of particle (example of a comparison) which carries out the reattachment to the wafer W when not using the above-mentioned substrate washing processor.

[0071] Although it was as the condition of the particle adhering to the wafer W after being immersed in before processing (i.e., DHF) showing the wafer W of the example of a comparison to Table 1 and drawing 13 when it is immersed for 3 minutes into a penetrant remover, for example, pure water, after being immersed in processing liquid (DHF;1:50), for example, 25-degree C rare hydrogen fluoride The condition of the particle A which carried out the reattachment to the wafer W after being immersed in after processing (i.e., pure water) was as being shown in Table 1 and drawing 14 . In addition, in drawing 13 and drawing 14 , Sign N is the notch prepared in the periphery edge of Wafer W.

[0072]

Table 1]

| パーティクルの サイズ(μm) | 比較例 | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 0.16-0.20 | 15 | 200 | 185 |
| 0.20-0.25 | 13 | 199 | 186 |
| 0.25-0.30 | 8 | 105 | 97 |
| 0.30-0.50 | 6 | 113 | 107 |
| 0.50-1.00 | 2 | 64 | 62 |
| 1.00- | 2 | 56 | 54 |
| 合計 | 46 | 737 | 691 |

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

[0073] On the other hand, after being immersed apart from the example of a comparison in processing liquid (DHF;1:50), for example, 25-degree C rare hydrogen fluoride, as the wafer W of an example is shown in drawing 12 After moving at the rate of 500 mm/sec from a location P1 to P5, it moves at the rate of 250 mm/sec from the location P5 to the oil-level location P6 of pure water. After removing the particle which soaks the lower part of Wafer W in the oil level of pure water between 0.5sec(s). and adheres to the lower part of Wafer W. Although the condition of the particle adhering to the wafer W after being immersed in before processing (i.e., DHF) was as being shown in Table 2 and drawing 15 when it moved at the rate of 500 mm/sec to the location of P6 to P8 and

immersion processing was performed The condition of the particle A which carried out the reattachment to the wafer W after being immersed in after processing (i.e., pure water) was as being shown in Table 2 and drawing 16.

[0074]

[Table 2]

| パーティクルの サイズ(μm) | 実施例 | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|
| | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 0.16-0.20 | 127 | 157 | 30 |
| 0.20-0.25 | 22 | 44 | 22 |
| 0.25-0.30 | 15 | 27 | 12 |
| 0.30-0.50 | 14 | 27 | 13 |
| 0.50-1.00 | 10 | 17 | 7 |
| 1.00- | 15 | 28 | 13 |
| 合計 | 203 | 300 | 97 |

[0075] The above-mentioned experiment showed that the particle total was increasing [that the total of the particle before processing was 46 pieces] 737 pieces and no less than 691 pieces (increment in about 15 times) after processing in the example of a comparison. On the other hand, in the example, it was [whether after processing, a particle total is 300 pieces and it is small, and] 97 increments (about 0.48 time reduction) that the total of the particle before processing was 203 pieces. Therefore, the lower part of Wafer W after carrying out drug solution processing was understood that the dirt by particle has remarkably little direction immersed in a penetrant remover, for example, pure water, after removing predetermined time, for example, the particle which soaked 0.5 secs and adhered to the lower part of Wafer W, to a penetrant remover, for example, pure water.

[0076] * The amount of etching by the processing liquid, for example, HF, which remains using the substrate washing processor of the fourth operation gestalt of the example-2 above to the wafer W at the time of spraying a clarification gas, for example, N2 gas, toward the wafer W after drug solution processing (when [of ****] the style of compulsion) (example), The experimental result for measuring the amount of etching (example of a comparison) by the processing liquid, for example, HF, which remains to the wafer W when not spraying a clarification gas, for example, N2 gas, is explained (when [of the compulsion style] nothing).

[0077] In the process which carries out washing processing of two or more wafers, for example, 50 sheets, W of the example of a comparison at the process of the rinse processing (5.5min)-desiccation processing (9min) by the processing (1min)-ultrapure water by rare hydrogen fluoride (DHF;5:1) After drug solution processing, when conveying to another processing tub or a washing tub and the amount of etching of each point of measurement of the 26th wafer W processing before when not spraying N2 gas on Wafer W (when [of the compulsion style] nothing) and after processing was investigated, the result as shown in Table 3 and drawing 17 was obtained.

[0078]

[Table 3]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

| 測定点 | 座標 | | スロット26 | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------|
| | X | Y | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 997.89 | 223.18 | 774.7 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 997.87 | 223.13 | 774.7 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 997.96 | 223.1 | 774.9 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 997.93 | 223.13 | 774.8 |
| 5 | 50 | 0 | 997.95 | 229.28 | 768.7 |
| 6 | 0 | 50 | 997.49 | 235.71 | 761.8 |
| 7 | -50 | 0 | 997.67 | 233.16 | 764.5 |
| 8 | 0 | -50 | 998.27 | 224.85 | 773.4 |
| 9 | 100 | 0 | 997.71 | 226.93 | 770.8 |
| 10 | 70.711 | 70.711 | 997.54 | 234.94 | 762.6 |
| 11 | 0 | 100 | 998.18 | 243.21 | 755.0 |
| 12 | -70.711 | 70.711 | 997.52 | 241.79 | 755.7 |
| 13 | -100 | 0 | 998.48 | 233.37 | 765.1 |
| 14 | -70.711 | -70.711 | 997.84 | 230.97 | 766.9 |
| 15 | 0 | -100 | 998.82 | 224.08 | 774.7 |
| 16 | 70.711 | -70.711 | 998.88 | 225.91 | 773.0 |
| 17 | 145 | 0 | 998.06 | 215.73 | 782.3 |
| 18 | 133.96 | 55.49 | 996.41 | 236.87 | 759.5 |
| 19 | 102.53 | 102.53 | 995.89 | 306 | 689.9 |
| 20 | 55.49 | 133.96 | 997.02 | 230.15 | 766.9 |
| 21 | 0 | 145 | 996.8 | 237.97 | 758.8 |
| 22 | -55.49 | 133.96 | 996.76 | 237.33 | 759.4 |
| 23 | -102.531 | 102.53 | 997.47 | 237.4 | 760.1 |
| 24 | -133.96 | 55.49 | 997.57 | 228.73 | 768.8 |
| 25 | -145 | 0 | 1039.2 | 293.49 | 745.7 |
| 26 | -133.96 | -55.49 | 997.58 | 227.47 | 770.1 |
| 27 | -102.53 | -102.531 | 994.79 | 230.04 | 764.8 |
| 28 | -55.49 | -133.96 | 995.69 | 231.53 | 764.2 |
| 29 | 0 | -145 | 1005.5 | 299.32 | 706.2 |
| 30 | 55.49 | -133.96 | 1030 | 347.36 | 682.6 |
| 31 | 102.531 | -102.53 | 1005.2 | 310.68 | 694.5 |
| 32 | 133.96 | -55.49 | 998.08 | 274.53 | 723.6 |
| 平均エッチング量(Average) | | | | | 755.9 |
| 最大エッチング量(Maximum) | | | | | 782.3 |
| 最小エッチング量(Minimum) | | | | | 682.6 |
| 変動量 (Range) | | | | | 99.7 |
| 標準偏差 (Sigma) | | | | | 26.4 |
| Range/2Average | | | | | 6.6 |
| Sigma/Average | | | | | 3.5 |

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

[0079] On the other hand, two or more wafers, for example, 50 sheets, W of an example In the process which carries out washing processing at the process of the processing (5min) by rare hydrogen fluoride (DHF;50:1), or the rinse processing (5.5min)-desiccation processing (9min) by the processing (1min)-ultrapure water by rare hydrogen fluoride (DHF;5:1) After drug solution processing, When conveying to another processing tub or a washing tub, the result when the amount of etching each point of measurement of Wafer W processing-before of the 26th sheet at the time of spraying N2 gas on Wafer W (when [of ****] the style of compulsion) and after processing is investigated, as shown in Table 4 and drawing 17 was obtained.

[0080]

[Table 4]

| 測定点 | 座標 | | スロット26 | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------|
| | X | Y | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 994.15 | 235.57 | 758.6 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 994 | 235.58 | 758.4 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 994.23 | 235.54 | 758.7 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 994.07 | 235.59 | 758.5 |
| 5 | 50 | 0 | 995.51 | 238.55 | 757.0 |
| 6 | 0 | 50 | 994.73 | 242.36 | 752.4 |
| 7 | -50 | 0 | 994.42 | 241.38 | 753.0 |
| 8 | 0 | -50 | 994.61 | 230.75 | 763.9 |
| 9 | 100 | 0 | 995.87 | 235.99 | 759.9 |
| 10 | 70.711 | 70.711 | 996.53 | 242.18 | 754.4 |
| 11 | 0 | 100 | 996.32 | 249.19 | 747.1 |
| 12 | -70.711 | 70.711 | 996.84 | 248.41 | 747.4 |
| 13 | -100 | 0 | 996.21 | 240.41 | 755.8 |
| 14 | -70.711 | -70.711 | 996.13 | 228.82 | 767.3 |
| 15 | 0 | -100 | 996.12 | 230.84 | 765.3 |
| 16 | 70.711 | -70.711 | 996.72 | 233.33 | 763.4 |
| 17 | 145 | 0 | 997.76 | 241.46 | 756.3 |
| 18 | 133.96 | 55.49 | 1027.2 | 278.12 | 749.1 |
| 19 | 102.53 | 102.53 | 998.65 | 237.48 | 761.2 |
| 20 | 55.49 | 133.96 | 996.19 | 234.62 | 761.6 |
| 21 | 0 | 145 | 992.57 | 246.31 | 746.3 |
| 22 | -55.49 | 133.96 | 994.14 | 243.65 | 750.5 |
| 23 | -102.531 | 102.53 | 994.97 | 245.56 | 749.4 |
| 24 | -133.96 | 55.49 | 996.07 | 240.63 | 755.4 |
| 25 | -145 | 0 | 996.77 | 232.69 | 764.1 |
| 26 | -133.96 | -55.49 | 999.71 | 230.26 | 769.5 |
| 27 | -102.53 | -102.531 | 996.45 | 233.21 | 763.2 |
| 28 | -55.49 | -133.96 | 996.26 | 243.45 | 752.8 |
| 29 | 0 | -145 | 1005.1 | 250.39 | 754.7 |
| 30 | 55.49 | -133.96 | 1047.3 | 315.2 | 732.1 |
| 31 | 102.531 | -102.53 | 1013.5 | 268.21 | 745.3 |
| 32 | 133.96 | -55.49 | 995.64 | 237.14 | 758.5 |
| 平均エッチング量(Average) | | | | | 756.0 |
| 最大エッチング量(Maximum) | | | | | 769.5 |
| 最小エッチング量(Minimum) | | | | | 732.1 |
| 変動量 (Range) | | | | | 37.4 |
| 標準偏差 (Sigma) | | | | | 7.7 |
| Range/2Average | | | | | 2.5 |
| Sigma/Average | | | | | 1.0 |

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

[0081] The above-mentioned experiment showed that homogeneity of the amount of etching could be planned by spraying N₂ gas towards the upper part from the lower part of Wafer W after drug solution processing.

[0082]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the substrate washing art and substrate washing processor of this invention, the following effectiveness is acquired as explained above.

[0083] (1) In the process which according to invention of 6, 9, and ten publications changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is immersed in processing liquid and a penetrant remover and carries out washing processing claim 1- Because a processed substrate washes the lower part of a processed substrate by the penetrant remover at least in one side at the time of being exposed from processing liquid or a penetrant remover when immersed in processing liquid or a penetrant remover Since the dust in the processing liquid which remains on the front face of a processed substrate is removable, while preventing the reattachment of the particle to a processed substrate, improvement in the product yield can be aimed at.

[0084] (2) In the process which according to invention according to claim 7 or 11 changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is contacted to processing liquid and a penetrant remover and carries out washing processing By performing processing of a processed substrate under the ambient atmosphere in which a clarification gas flows from the upper part to a lower part, weakening the flow of a clarification gas, in case the processed substrate which processing with processing liquid finished is conveyed in the processing section of another processing liquid or a penetrant remover, or making it stop Since the flow to the lower part of the processing liquid on a processed substrate can be prevented after processing with processing liquid, while being able to aim at improvement in etch uniformity with the processing liquid of a processed substrate, improvement in the product yield can be aimed at.

[0085] (3) In the process which according to invention according to claim 8 or 13 changes a processed substrate into a perpendicular condition, is contacted to processing liquid and a penetrant remover and carries out washing processing. In case the processed substrate which processing with processing liquid finished is conveyed in the processing section of another processing liquid or a penetrant remover, by spraying a clarification gas toward the upper part from the lower part of a processed substrate. Since the flow to the lower part of the processing liquid on a processed substrate can be prevented after processing with processing liquid, while being able to aim at improvement in etch uniformity with the processing liquid of a processed substrate, improvement in the product yield can be aimed at.

[Translation done.]

NOT AVAILABLE COPY

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPi are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the outline top view showing an example of the substrate washing processing system which applied the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the outline side elevation showing the first operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the rear view of the above-mentioned substrate washing processor.

[Drawing 4] It is the sectional view showing the above-mentioned substrate washing processor.

[Drawing 5] It is the sectional view showing the important section of the above-mentioned substrate washing processor.

[Drawing 6] It is the outline front view showing the lower washing field and lower product field of the wafer which is a processed substrate.

[Drawing 7] It is the outline sectional view showing the second operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[Drawing 8] It is the outline sectional view showing the third operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the outline sectional view showing the fourth operation gestalt of the substrate washing processor concerning this invention.

[Drawing 10] They are the outline side elevation (a) showing another attachment condition of the clarification gas-injection means in this invention, and its front view (b).

[Drawing 11] It is the outline perspective view showing another gestalt of the processed substrate conveyance means in this invention.

[Drawing 12] It is the schematic diagram showing the procedure of an experiment of investigating the amount of particle which adheres to a wafer using the substrate washing processor of the above-mentioned second operation gestalt.

[Drawing 13] It is the explanatory view showing the particle adhesion condition before washing processing of the wafer of the example of a comparison.

[Drawing 14] It is the explanatory view showing the particle adhesion condition after washing processing of the wafer of the example of a comparison.

[Drawing 15] It is the explanatory view showing the particle adhesion condition before washing processing of the wafer of an example.

[Drawing 16] It is the explanatory view showing the particle adhesion condition after washing processing of the wafer of an example.

[Drawing 17] It is the graph which shows the etch uniformity the case (example) where N₂ gas is sprayed towards the upper part from the lower part of the wafer after drug solution processing, and when not spraying (example of a comparison).

[Drawing 18] It is the outline sectional view (c) showing the outline sectional view (b) showing the outline side elevation (a) showing the array condition of the wafer for investigating the processing liquid and particle coating weight to the wafer and the wafer made from silicon which form an oxide film, processing liquid, and the adhesion condition of particle, and the reattachment condition of particle.

[Drawing 19] It is the outline front view (b) showing the condition that the drug solution adhering to the outline sectional view (a) and wafer in which the condition that the drug solution adhered to the wafer after drug solution processing is shown flows caudad.

[Description of Notations]

W Semi-conductor wafer (processed substrate)

L Pure water (penetrant remover)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

15 15A Wafer conveyance chuck (processed substrate conveyance means)
21 Processing Tub
21A Washing tub
38 Air-Current Baffle Plate
57 Wafer Boat (Maintenance Means)
33 Pure-Water Source of Supply
34 Pure-Water Injection Nozzle (Penetrant Remover Injection Means)
70 Filter Unit
71 Fan
72 Fan Motor
73 Control Section
74 74A N2 gas injection nozzle (clarification gas-injection means)
76 Source of N2 Gas Supply
30 Rise-and-Fall Means
31 Rise-and-Fall Control Means

[Translation done.]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(19) 日本国特許庁 (J P)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11) 特許出願公開番号

特開2000-223456

(P2000-223456A)

(43) 公開日 平成12年8月11日 (2000. 8. 11)

| (51) Int.Cl. ⁷ | 識別記号 | F I | テマコード* (参考) |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------|-------------|
| H 0 1 L 21/304 | 6 4 2 | H 0 1 L 21/304 | 6 4 2 A |
| B 0 8 B 3/04 | | B 0 8 B 3/04 | Z |
| // G 0 2 F 1/1333 | 5 0 0 | G 0 2 F 1/1333 | 5 0 0 |

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数16 O L (全 18 頁)

(21) 出願番号 特願平11-286761

(22) 出願日 平成11年10月7日 (1999. 10. 7)

(31) 優先権主張番号 09/185413

(32) 優先日 平成10年11月3日 (1998. 11. 3)

(33) 優先権主張国 米国 (US)

(71) 出願人 000219967

東京エレクトロン株式会社

東京都港区赤坂5丁目3番6号

(72) 発明者 横溝 賢治

米国テキサス州オースチン市グローブ・ブ

ルバード2400番地 東京エレクトロンアメ

リカ株式会社内

(74) 代理人 100096644

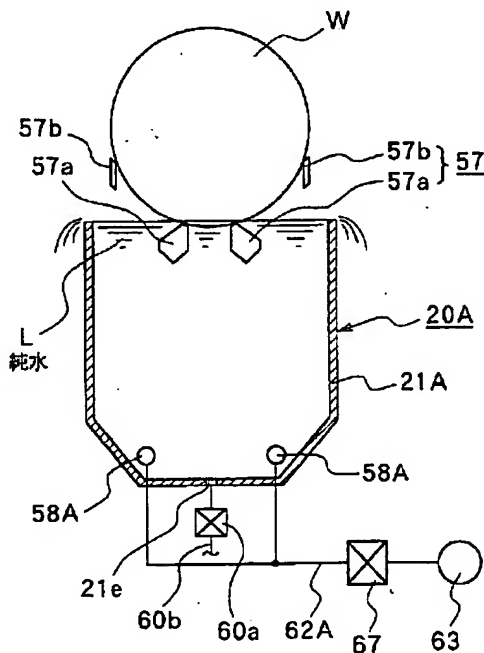
弁理士 中本 菊彦

(54) 【発明の名称】 基板洗浄処理方法及び基板洗浄処理装置

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 被処理基板を処理液及び洗浄液に浸漬して洗浄処理を施す過程における被処理基板へのパーティクルの再付着の防止等により製品歩留まりの向上を図れるようにすること。

【解決手段】 半導体ウエハWを垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に浸漬して洗浄処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、処理液での処理が終わった半導体ウエハWを、オーバーフローする純水Lに浸漬する際、純水Lの液面と半導体ウエハWの下部とを接触させ一旦停止する。これにより、半導体ウエハWの下部に残留する処理液に含まれるパーティクルを、オーバーフローの流れに乗せて拡散し、除去することができると共に、再び浸漬する際に半導体ウエハW上へのパーティクルの再付着を防止することができる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に浸漬し、処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板が上記処理液又は洗浄液に浸漬される際、あるいは処理液又は洗浄液から露呈された際の少なくとも一方において、上記被処理基板の下部を洗浄液で洗浄するようにした、ことを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項2】 請求項1記載の基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板の下部に対して洗浄液を噴射して洗浄することを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項3】 請求項1記載の基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板の下部を、洗浄液の液面中に所定時間浸漬して洗浄することを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項4】 請求項3記載の基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板の下部は、洗浄液の液面中に停止していることを含む基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項5】 請求項3又は4記載の基板洗浄処理方法において、上記洗浄液は、この洗浄液を貯留する洗浄槽からオーバーフローすることを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項6】 請求項1ないし5のいずれかに記載の基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板は、疎水性素材の表面に親水性の膜が混在する基板であることを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項7】 被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させ、処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板の処理を、清浄気体が上方から下方へ流れる雰囲気で行い、

上記処理液での処理が終わった上記被処理基板を、別の処理液又は上記洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、上記清浄気体の流れを弱めるか、停止させるようにした、ことを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項8】 被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させ、処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、上記処理液での処理が終わった上記被処理基板を、別の処理液又は上記洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、上記被処理基板の下部から上方に向かって清浄気体を吹き付けるようにした、ことを特徴とする基板洗浄処理方法。

【請求項9】 被処理基板を浸漬する処理液を貯留する処理槽と、上記被処理基板を浸漬する洗浄液を貯留する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、

上記処理槽の上方に、上記被処理基板の下部に向かって洗浄液を噴射する洗浄液噴射手段を具備してなることを

特徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【請求項10】 被処理基板を浸漬する処理液を貯留する処理槽と、上記被処理基板を浸漬する洗浄液を貯留する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、上記昇降手段の昇降動作を制御する昇降制御手段を具備し、この昇降制御手段によって上記保持手段にて保持される上記被処理基板を上記洗浄槽内の上記洗浄液に浸漬する際、被処理基板の下部を洗浄液の液面に浸漬した状態で停止させるようにした、ことを特徴とする浸漬洗浄処理装置。

【請求項11】 被処理基板が処理液に接触する処理槽と、上記被処理基板が洗浄液に接触する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、

上記処理槽を、清浄気体が上方から下方へ流れる雰囲気下に配設し、

上記雰囲気形成する清浄気体の流量を停止又は調節可能に制御する制御手段を具備する、ことを特徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【請求項12】 請求項11記載の基板洗浄処理装置において、

上記被処理基板を処理槽から別の処理槽又は洗浄槽に搬送する際、清浄気体の流量を停止又は弱めるように制御する制御手段を具備することを特徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【請求項13】 被処理基板が処理液に接触する処理槽と、上記被処理基板が洗浄液に接触する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、

上記処理槽で処理が終わった上記被処理基板を、別の処理槽又は上記洗浄槽に搬送する際、上記被処理基板の下部から上方に向かって清浄気体を吹き付ける清浄気体噴射手段を具備してなる、ことを特徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【請求項14】 請求項9ないし11又は13のいずれかに記載の基板洗浄処理装置において、上記昇降手段は、処理槽及び洗浄槽間において、被処理基板を搬送する搬送手段に具備されていることを特徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【請求項15】 請求項9ないし11又は13のいずれかに記載の基板洗浄処理装置において、

上記昇降手段とは別に、処理槽及び洗浄槽間において、被処理基板を搬送する搬送手段を更に具備することを特

徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【請求項16】 請求項9ないし11又は13のいずれかに記載の基板洗浄処理装置において、上記洗浄槽は、洗浄液をオーバーフローするオーバーフロー槽であることを特徴とする基板洗浄処理装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】この発明は、基板洗浄処理方法及び基板洗浄処理装置に関するもので、更に詳細には、例えば半導体ウエハやLCD基板等の被処理基板を処理液及び洗浄液に浸漬して処理する基板洗浄処理方法及び基板洗浄処理装置に関するものである。

【0002】

【従来の技術】一般に、半導体製造装置の製造工程においては、半導体ウエハ等の被処理基板（以下にウエハ等という）を処理液（薬液）や洗浄液（リンス液）等が貯留された処理槽や洗浄槽に順次搬送し、処理液や洗浄液に浸漬して、ウエハ等に付着するパーティクル、有機物、金属汚染物あるいは酸化膜を除去すると共に、乾燥等の処理を行う基板洗浄処理装置が広く採用されている。

【0003】この種の基板洗浄処理装置は、処理液（薬液）（例えば、 $\text{HF} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ （フッ化水素）（以下にHFという）、 $\text{NH}_4\text{OH} + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ （アンモニア過水）、 $\text{HCl} + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ （塩酸過水）等）を貯留する処理槽や洗浄液（リンス液；例えば純水）等を貯留する洗浄槽と、複数枚例えば50枚のウエハ等を垂直状態に保持する保持手段例えばウエハポートと、このウエハポートを介してウエハ等を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段が具備されている。

【0004】また、上記処理槽、洗浄槽やウエハポート等は清浄気体例えば清浄空気が上方から下方へ流れるダウンフローの雰囲気下におかれて、ウエハ等の洗浄処理をクリーンな環境の下で行っている。

【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところで、上記ウエハ等は、一般にシリコン製の素材基板の表面に絶縁膜としての酸化膜が形成されると共に、エッチングにより所定のパターン等が形成される。このようにシリコン製の素材基板の表面に酸化膜が形成されたウエハ等においては、シリコンは疎水性であるが、酸化膜は親水性であるため、ウエハ表面に処理液が残る。この事実を確認するために、図18(a)に示すように、複数枚の酸化膜ウエハWaとベアシリコンのウエハWbとを同じスロットに配列した状態でウエハポートaにて保持し、そして、処理槽（図示せず）に貯留された処理液例えばHFに浸漬したところ、図18(b)に示すように、酸化膜ウエハWaの表面に処理液（HF）が残る。この状態で、両ウエハWa、Wbを、次の処理槽や洗浄槽に投入すると、酸化膜ウエハWaの表面に残った処理液（HF）の

上にあるパーティクルAが酸化膜ウエハWaの表面に付着し、更に、図18(c)に示すように、処理液（HF）上に付着したパーティクルAが隣接するベアシリコンウエハWbに再付着することが判明した。この結果から明らかなように、シリコン製の素材基板の表面に酸化膜が形成されたウエハ等を処理液及び洗浄液に浸漬して洗浄処理する過程において、ウエハ等の表面にパーティクルが付着するので、製品歩留まりの低下をきたすという問題があった。

【0006】また、処理液例えばHFによってウエハ等の表面に形成された酸化膜をエッチングする場合、ウエハWを処理槽に貯留された処理液（HF）に浸漬した後、処理槽から引き上げ、洗浄槽に搬入する場合、図19(a)、(b)に示すように、ウエハW上に残っている処理液（HF）が重力と共にダウンフローの清浄気体の流れによってウエハWの下部側に流れて行き、垂直状態のウエハWの上部の処理液が切れる状態、つまりウエハW上部の処理液が下がって行き、酸化膜が露出する状態が発生する。このようにウエハW上の酸化膜が露出すると、ウエハW上の露出部のエッチングが停止し、処理液の残っている部分のエッチングは継続するので、エッチングの均一性が損なわれ、製品歩留まりが低下するという問題があった。

【0007】この発明は上記事情に鑑みなされたもので、被処理基板を処理液及び洗浄液に浸漬して洗浄処理を施す過程において、処理液による処理後に被処理基板の表面に残存する処理液中のゴミを再洗浄によって除去して、パーティクルの再付着を防止すると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることを第1の目的とし、また、処理液による処理後に被処理基板上の処理液の下方への流れを防止して、エッチング均一性の向上を図ると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることを第2の目的とするものである。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するために、請求項1記載の発明は、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に浸漬し、処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板が上記処理液又は洗浄液に浸漬される際、あるいは処理液又は洗浄液から露呈された際の少なくとも一方において、上記被処理基板の下部を洗浄液で洗浄するようにした、ことを特徴とする。ここで、被処理基板が処理液又は洗浄液から露呈された際とは、処理液又は洗浄液から被処理基板を引き上げる状態と、被処理基板が浸漬する処理液又は洗浄液を下方へ排出する状態のいずれをも含む意味である。

【0009】上記請求項1記載の基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板の下部を洗浄する方法としては、例えば、上記被処理基板の下部に対して洗浄液を噴射して洗浄するか（請求項2）、あるいは、上記被処理基板の下部を、洗浄液の液面中に所定時間浸漬して洗浄する

（請求項3）ことができる。ここで、被処理基板の下部は、洗浄液の液面中に停止して浸漬される場合も含まれる（請求項4）。この場合、洗浄液は、この洗浄液を貯留する洗浄槽からオーバーフローする方が好ましい（請求項5）。また、上記被処理基板は、疎水性素材の表面に親水性の膜が混在する基板であることが前提となる（請求項6）。ここで、疎水性素材としては、例えばベアシリコンウエハやメタルウエハ等が該当し、親水性の膜としては、例えば酸化膜あるいはその他の絶縁膜が該当する。

【0010】請求項7記載の発明は、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させ、処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、上記被処理基板の処理を、清浄気体が上方から下方へ流れる雰囲気下で行い、上記処理液での処理が終わった上記被処理基板を、別の処理液又は上記洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、上記清浄空気の流れを弱めるか、停止させるようにした、ことを特徴とする。

【0011】また、請求項8記載の発明は、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させ、処理する基板洗浄処理方法において、上記処理液での処理が終わった上記被処理基板を、別の処理液又は上記洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、上記被処理基板の下部から上方に向かって清浄気体を吹き付けるようにした、ことを特徴とする。この場合、上記清浄気体としては、例えば清浄空気あるいは窒素（N₂）ガス等を使用することができる。

【0012】また、請求項9記載の発明は、請求項1及び2記載の基板洗浄処理方法を具現化するもので、被処理基板を浸漬する処理液を貯留する処理槽と、上記被処理基板を浸漬する洗浄液を貯留する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、上記処理槽の上方に、上記被処理基板の下部に向かって洗浄液を噴射する洗浄液噴射手段を具備してなることを特徴とする。

【0013】また、請求項10記載の発明は、請求項1及び3記載の基板洗浄処理方法を具現化するもので、被処理基板を浸漬する処理液を貯留する処理槽と、上記被処理基板を浸漬する洗浄液を貯留する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、上記昇降手段の昇降動作を制御する昇降制御手段を具備し、この昇降制御手段によって上記保持手段にて保持される上記被処理基板を上記洗浄槽内の上記洗浄液に浸漬する際、被処理基板の下部を洗浄液の液面に浸漬した状態で停止させるようにした、ことを特徴とする。

【0014】また、請求項11記載の発明は、請求項7記載の基板洗浄処理方法を具現化するもので、被処理基板が処理液と接触する処理槽と、上記被処理基板が洗浄液と接触する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、上記処理槽を、清浄気体が上方から下方へ流れる雰囲気下に配設し、上記雰囲気形成する清浄気体の流量を停止又は調節可能に制御する制御手段を具備する、ことを特徴とする。この場合、被処理基板を処理槽から別の処理槽又は洗浄槽に搬送する際、清浄気体の流量を停止又は弱めるように制御する制御手段を具備させる方が好ましい（請求項12）。

【0015】また、請求項13記載の発明は、請求項8記載の基板洗浄処理方法を具現化するもので、被処理基板が処理液と接触する処理槽と、上記被処理基板が洗浄液と接触する洗浄槽と、上記被処理基板を垂直状態に保持する保持手段と、上記保持手段を介して上記被処理基板を上記処理槽及び洗浄槽に対して昇降する昇降手段とを具備する基板洗浄処理装置において、上記処理液での処理が終わった上記被処理基板を、別の処理槽又は上記洗浄槽に搬送する際、上記被処理基板の下部から上方に向かって清浄気体を吹き付ける清浄気体噴射手段を具備してなる、ことを特徴とする。この場合、上記昇降手段は、処理槽及び洗浄槽間において、被処理基板を搬送する搬送手段を具備してもよい（請求項14）。また、上記処理手段とは別に、処理槽及び洗浄槽間において、被処理基板を搬送する搬送手段を更に具備してもよい（請求項15）。また、上記洗浄槽は、洗浄液を貯留するものであれば任意のものでよいが、好ましくは洗浄液をオーバーフローするオーバーフロー槽である方がよい（請求項16）。

【0016】この発明において、上記被処理基板の下部とは、被処理基板の下端部から被処理基板に形成される例えば回路パターン等の製品領域近傍の範囲を意味する。

【0017】請求項1～6、9、10記載の発明によれば、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に浸漬して洗浄処理する過程において、被処理基板が処理液又は洗浄液に浸漬される際、あるいは処理液又は洗浄液から露呈された際の少なくとも一方において、被処理基板の下部を洗浄液で洗浄することで、被処理基板の表面に残存する処理液中のゴミを除去することができる。したがって、被処理基板へのパーティクルの再付着を防止すると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることができる。

【0018】また、請求項7又は11記載の発明によれば、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させて洗浄処理する過程において、被処理基板の処理を、清浄気体が上方から下方へ流れる雰囲気下で行い、

処理液での処理が終わった被処理基板を、別の処理液又は洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、清浄気体の流れを弱めるか、停止させることで、処理液による処理後に被処理基板上の処理液の下方への流れを防止することができる。したがって、被処理基板の処理液によるエッチング均一性の向上を図ることができると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることができる。

【0019】また、請求項8又は13記載の発明によれば、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させて洗浄処理する過程において、処理液での処理が終わった被処理基板を、別の処理液又は洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、被処理基板の下部から上方に向かって清浄気体を吹き付けることで、処理液による処理後に被処理基板上の処理液の下方への流れを防止することができる。したがって、被処理基板の処理液によるエッチング均一性の向上を図ることができると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることができる。

【0020】

【発明の実施の形態】以下に、この発明の実施の形態を図面に基づいて詳細に説明する。この実施形態では、この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置を半導体ウエハの洗浄処理システムに適用した場合について説明する。

【0021】図1はこの発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置を適用した洗浄処理システムの一例を示す概略平面図である。

【0022】上記洗浄処理システムは、被処理基板である半導体ウエハW（以下にウエハWという）を水平状態に収納する容器例えばキャリア1を搬入、搬出するための搬入・搬出部2と、ウエハWを処理液（薬液）、洗浄液等で液処理すると共に乾燥処理する処理部3と、搬入・搬出部2と処理部3との間に位置してウエハWの受渡し、位置調整、姿勢変換及び間隔調整等を行うウエハWの受渡し部例えばインターフェース部4とで主に構成されている。

【0023】上記搬入・搬出部2は、洗浄処理システムの一側端部にはキャリア搬入部5aとキャリア搬出部5bが併設されると共に、ウエハ搬入部6が設けられている。この場合、キャリア搬入部5aとウエハ搬入部6との間には図示しない搬送機構が配設されており、この搬送機構によってキャリア1がキャリア搬入部5aからウエハ搬入部6へ搬送されるように構成されている。

【0024】また、キャリア搬出部5bとウエハ搬入部6には、それぞれキャリアリフト（図示せず）が配設され、このキャリアリフトによって空のキャリア1を搬入・搬出部2上方に設けられたキャリア待機部（図示せず）への受け渡し及びキャリア待機部からの受け取りを行うことができるように構成されている。この場合、キャリア待機部には、水平方向（X、Y方向）及び垂直方向（Z方向）に移動可能なキャリア搬送ロボット（図示

せず）が配設されており、このキャリア搬送ロボットによってウエハ搬入部6から搬送された空のキャリア1を整列すると共に、キャリア搬出部5bへ搬出し得るようになっている。また、キャリア待機部には、空キャリアだけでなく、ウエハWが収納された状態のキャリア1を待機させておくことも可能である。

【0025】上記キャリア1は、一側に開口部を有し内壁に複数枚例えば25枚のウエハWを適宜間隔をおいて水平状態に保持する保持溝（図示せず）を有する容器本体1aと、この容器本体1aの開口部を開閉する蓋体1bとで構成されており、蓋体1b内に組み込まれた係脱機構（図示せず）を後述する蓋開閉装置8によって操作することにより、蓋体1bが開閉されるように構成されている。

【0026】上記ウエハ搬入部6は、上記インターフェース部4に開口しており、その開口部には蓋開閉装置8が配設されている。この蓋開閉装置8によってキャリア1の蓋体1bが開放あるいは閉塞されるようになっている。したがって、ウエハ搬入部6に搬送された未処理のウエハWを収納するキャリア1の蓋体1bを蓋開閉装置8によって取り外してキャリア1内のウエハWを搬出可能にし、全てのウエハWが搬出された後、再び蓋開閉装置8によって蓋体1bを閉塞することができる。また、キャリア待機部からウエハ搬入部6に搬送された空のキャリア1の蓋体1bを蓋開閉装置8によって取り外してキャリア1内へのウエハWを搬入可能にし、全てのウエハWが搬入された後、再び蓋開閉装置8によって蓋体1bを閉塞することができる。なお、ウエハ搬入部6の開口部近傍には、キャリア1内に収納されたウエハWの枚数を検出するマッピングセンサ9が配設されている。

【0027】上記インターフェース部4には、複数枚例えば25枚のウエハWを水平状態に保持すると共に、ウエハ搬入部6のキャリア1との間で、水平状態でウエハWを受け渡すウエハ搬送アーム10と、複数枚例えば52枚のウエハWを所定間隔をおいて垂直状態に保持する間隔調整手段例えばピッチチェンジャ（図示せず）と、ウエハ搬送アーム10とピッチチェンジャとの間に位置して、複数枚例えば25枚のウエハWを水平状態と垂直状態とに交換する姿勢変換装置12と、垂直状態に姿勢変換されたウエハWに設けられたノッチを検知してウエハWの位置合わせを行うノッチアライナ13が配設されている。また、インターフェース部4には、処理部3と連なる搬送路14が設けられており、この搬送路14にウエハ搬送手段例えばウエハ搬送チャック15が移動自在に配設されている。

【0028】この場合、上記ウエハ搬送アーム10は、ウエハ搬入部6のキャリア1から複数枚のウエハWを取り出して搬送すると共に、キャリア1内に複数枚のウエハWを収納する2つの保持部例えばアーム体10a、

10bを併設してなる。これらアーム体10a、10bは、水平方向(X、Y方向)、垂直方向(Z方向)及び回転方向(θ 方向)へ移動可能な駆動台11の上部に搭載されてそれぞれ独立してウエハWを水平状態に保持すると共に、ウエハ搬出入部6に載置されたキャリア1と姿勢変換装置12との間でウエハWの受渡しを行うように構成されている。したがって、一方のアーム体10aによって未処理のウエハWを保持し、他方のアーム体10bによって処理済みのウエハWを保持することができる。

【0029】一方、上記処理部3には、ウエハWに付着するパーティクル、有機物、金属あるいは酸化膜を除去するこの発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置を具備する複数の処理ユニット16～19が直線状に配列されており、これら各ユニット16～19と対向する位置に設けられた搬送路14に、X、Y方向(水平方向)、Z方向(垂直方向)及び回転方向(θ 方向)へ移動可能なウエハ搬送チャック15(ウエハ搬送手段)が配設されている。この場合、第1の処理ユニット16中に、チャック洗浄部16aが配設されている。なお、チャック洗浄部16aは、必ずしも第1の処理ユニット16内に配設する必要はなく、第1の処理ユニット16あるいはその他の処理ユニット17、18、19とは別個に配設してもよく、また、処理部3とインターフェース部4との間に配設してもよい。

【0030】次に、この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置について図2ないし図8を参照して説明する。

【0031】◎第一実施形態

図2は上記第1の処理ユニット16内に配設された基板洗浄処理装置の第一実施形態を示す概略側面図、図3は基板洗浄処理装置の概略背面図、図4は基板洗浄処理装置の要部を示す断面図である。

【0032】基板洗浄処理装置20は、図2に示すように、ウエハWを浸漬する処理液例えばHF(薬液)を貯留する処理槽21を収容する例えば矩形筒状の第1の容器22aと、薬液とは別の洗浄液例えばリンス液(純水)を貯留する洗浄槽21Aを収容する例えば矩形筒状の第2の容器22bとを隣接してなり、また、第1の容器22aにチャック洗浄部16aを収容する例えば矩形筒状の第3の容器22cを隣接してなる(図3参照)。この場合、上記複数の容器22a～22c及び後述するフィルタユニット70との間の空気は、洗浄処理装置外部の空気と接触しないように洗浄処理装置の外壁で隔離されている。

【0033】上記第1の容器22a及び第2の容器22b(以下に第1の容器22aを代表して説明する)は、処理槽21を収容する、底部23aが設けられた処理室23を有すると共に、互いに連通する側部排気通路24と底部排気通路25を有している。また、容器22aにおける処理室23の上方には、清浄化した気体例えば清

浄空気を処理室23内へ供給するためのフィルタユニット70が配設されている(図3、図4参照)。なお、フィルタユニット70には、図示しないモータによって駆動されるファン(図示せず)が具備されている。

【0034】この場合、側部排気通路24は、容器22aの装置手前側の側壁26と、処理室23の底部23aから起立する起立壁27と起立壁27を下方に延長した壁とを有する第1の区画壁28とで形成されている。また、底部排気通路25は、容器22aの底板30と、第1の区画壁28の下部から略水平に折曲する第2の区画壁29とで形成されている。

【0035】また、第1の容器22aの底板30には、排気手段例えば真空ポンプ31を介設する排気管32を接続する排気口33と、排液口例えばドレン口34が開設されている。この場合、排気口33の開口部近傍に、開口部を包囲すると共に、底板30(容器底面)より上方に起立する気液分離用の突壁35が形成されており、この突壁35によって側部排気通路24及び底部排気通路25を通して排気口33から排気される空気中に混入された薬液例えばHF等を含む水分が排気管32内に流れ込むのを防止し得るようになっている。なお、排気口33は、底板30の任意の位置に形成することができる。また、ドレン口34にはドレン弁36を介設したドレン管37が接続されており、容器22aの底板30上に溜まった排液を外部に排出し得るよう構成されている。

【0036】また、上記側部排気通路24の開口部上方には、この側部排気通路24及び起立壁27の上端部近傍を覆うと共に、起立壁27との隙間を調整する気流調整手段例えば気流調整板38が調整可能に配設されている。この場合、気流調整板38は、図4に示すように、側部排気通路24の開口部を覆う水平片38aと、この水平片38aの処理槽側先端から起立壁27の上端より下方に垂下する垂下片38bとで主に構成されており、水平片38aに穿設された長孔(図示せず)を貫通する取付ボルト39を、容器22aの側壁26から内方に突出する取付部40にねじ止めすることにより、移動調整すなわち側壁26と処理槽21との隙間を調整可能に形成されている。

【0037】上記のように形成される気流調整板38における水平片38aの取付位置を変えることにより、側壁26と処理槽21の隙間を調整することができ、処理部すなわち処理槽21及び処理室23内を流れる空気の排気量を任意に調整することができる。したがって、容器22aにおいて、フィルタユニット70を通過して処理室23内に供給される清浄化された空気の量と、側部排気通路24を流れる空気の量を等しくなるように調整することができる。また、各容器22a～22cにおける処理室23内に供給される清浄化された空気の量と、各容器22a～22cの各側部排気通路24を流れる空

気の量の総和とを等しくするように調整することも可能となる。

【0038】このように、処理室23内に供給される清浄化された空気1の量と、装置外部へ排気される空気2の量とを同等にすることにより、処理室23内の雰囲気1が排気系統以外から流出するのを防止することができる。

【0039】なお、この場合、薬液例えばHFを使用する処理槽21を収容する処理室23の排気圧を、薬液を使用しない処理槽21を収容する他の容器の処理室23の排気圧よりも低く調整することもできる。したがって、薬液雰囲気1が薬液を使用しない他の容器内に流入するのを防止することができる。

【0040】上記説明では、気流調整板38を手動で調整する場合について説明したが、例えばシリンダやモータ等の駆動手段によって気流調整板38を操作することも可能である。

【0041】一方、起立壁27と気流調整板38との間には、排気圧検出手段41が配設されており、この排気圧検出手段41により、排気される空気圧を外部より検知できるようになっている。なおこの場合、排気圧検出手段41は、図4に示すように、側壁26及び起立壁27の対向位置に穿設された取付孔（図示せず）にそれぞれ気水密に貫挿される継手43によって支持されて起立壁27と垂下片38bとの間に露呈するパイプ部材44aと、容器外部にてパイプ部材44aと接続する圧力検出計44bとで構成されている。

【0042】一方、上記処理室23の下部には、この処理室23の底部23aと、装置手前側の側壁26と隣接する側壁26a、装置背部側の側壁26b及び起立壁27とで構成される下部室45が形成されており、この下部室45の容積は、少なくとも処理槽21内に貯留される処理液例えばHFあるいは純水の容積より大きくするように形成されている。このように、下部室45の容積を処理槽21内に貯留される処理液の容積より大きくした理由は、万一、処理槽21が破損して処理槽21内の処理液が下方に流出しても、下部室45内で受け止めることで、安全の確保を図れるようにしたためである。また、処理室23の底部23aは、装置手前側から装置背部側に向かって下り勾配状に形成されており、傾斜下部側の装置背部側の側壁26bに排水口例えばドレン口46が開設されている。なお、ドレン口46には、図示しないドレン弁を介設したドレン管47が接続されている。

【0043】また、上記処理室23の底部23aと、第1の区画壁28及び第2の区画壁29とで、側方すなわち装置背部側に開口する収納空間48が形成されており、この収納空間48内に、例えば循環ポンプ49、ダンパ50、ヒータ51及びこれらを接続する配管52等からなる処理液の供給・排出用設備機器類が収納されている。このように処理室23の下方に収納空間48を形

成し、この収納空間48内に、例えば循環ポンプ49、ダンパ50、ヒータ51及びこれらを接続する配管52等からなる処理液の供給・排出用設備機器類を収納することにより、装置背部側の空間53をスッキリさせることができ、この背部空間53内に、供給及び排出用配管52のみを系統化して配管することができ、スペースの有効利用を図ることができる。

【0044】なお、容器22の装置手前側の側壁26の上部側には、図示しない計器類や操作機器類を収容する空間部54が設けられており、この空間部54の開口部54aに、カバー55が着脱可能に装着されるようになっている。また、容器22aの装置背部側の側壁26bには容器内部を目視するための覗き窓56が設けられている。

【0045】また、上記第1の容器22aと第2の容器22b及び第3の容器22cを、互いに接続すると共に、側部排気通路24又は底部排気通路25の少なくとも一方を介して連通し、かつ第1の容器22aの底板30に排気口33を設けることにより、各容器22a、22b、22c内を流れる空気を第1の容器22に設けられた排気口33を介して外部に排出することができる。したがって、ウエハWの洗浄処理時に、フィルタユニット70からダウフローして洗浄処理装置20の処理部すなわち処理槽21及び処理室23内に流れる清浄空気中に、処理時に処理槽21の外に飛散する薬液や純水等が混入して汚染された雰囲気1を側部排気通路24及び底部排気通路25を介して外部に排出することができるので、洗浄処理の精度の向上を図ることができる。

【0046】一方、上記処理槽21は、ウエハWを収容する内槽21aと、この内槽21aの開口部外方を包囲すると共に、内槽21aからオーバーフローした処理液を受け止める外槽21bとで構成されており、内槽21a内には、ウエハ搬送チャック15との間で複数枚例えば50枚のウエハWの受け渡しを行うと共に、これらウエハWを垂直状態に保持する昇降可能な保持手段例えばウエハポート57が配設されている。

【0047】上記ウエハポート57は、ウエハWの下端側を保持する一對の下部保持棒57aと、これら下部保持棒57aの上方の両側を保持する一對の側部保持棒57bとを具備している。このウエハポート57は、例えばボールねじ機構、あるいはシリンダ等にて形成される昇降手段80に連結されて昇降可能に構成されており、ウエハポート57及びウエハWを下降して処理槽21内に貯留されている処理液に浸漬し、また上昇して処理槽21から引き上げるようになっている。このウエハポート57の昇降動作は、昇降制御手段である昇降制御部81から昇降手段80に伝達される制御信号によって制御される。

【0048】また、内槽21a内の下部には、この内槽21a内に処理液を供給する供給ノズル58が配設され

ている。この場合、内槽 21a の底部には排液口 21c が開設され、この排液口 21c に図示しないドレン弁を介設したドレン管 59 が接続されている。また、外槽 21b の底部にも排液口 21d が開設されており、この排液口 21d に、図示しないドレン弁を介設したドレン管 60 が接続されると共に、図示しない切換弁を介して上記供給・排出用設備機器類の配管 52 に接続されている。このように外槽 21b の排液口 21d に設備機器類の配管 52 を接続することにより、内槽 21a からオーバーフローした処理液例えば HF を循環供給して、ウエハ W の洗浄処理に供することができる。

【0049】一方、第 2 の容器 22b 内に配設される洗浄槽 21A は、図 2 及び図 5 に示すように、洗浄槽 21A 内の下部に洗浄液例えば純水を供給する純水供給ノズル 58A が配設されており、この純水供給ノズル 58A は、第 1 の純水供給管 62 を介して純水供給源 63 に接続されている。また、洗浄槽 21A の上方の両側には、洗浄槽 21A 内に投入されるウエハ W の下部及び下部保持棒 57a に向かって洗浄液例えば純水を例えば液幕状に噴射する一対の洗浄液噴射手段例えば純水噴射ノズル 64 が配設されている。ここで、ウエハ W の下部とは、図 6 に示すように、ウエハ W の下端部 We からウエハ W に形成される例えば回路パターン等の製品領域 Wp の近傍までの領域（図 6 でハッチングで示す。）をいう。上記純水噴射ノズル 64 は、第 2 の純水供給管 65 を介して上記純水供給源 63 に接続されている。この場合、第 1 の純水供給管 62 と第 2 の純水供給管 65 は、切換手段例えば切換弁 66 を介して純水供給源 63 に接続されて、純水の供給が、純水供給ノズル 58A と純水噴射ノズル 64 とに切り換え可能、あるいは同時供給可能になっている。

【0050】なお、切換弁 66 と純水供給源 63 との間には開閉弁 67 が介設され、第 2 の純水供給管 65 の純水噴射ノズル 64 側にはそれぞれ開閉弁 68 と絞り 69 が介設されている。また、洗浄槽 21A の底部には排液口 21e が設けられており、この排液口 21e にドレン弁 60a を介設したドレン管 60b が接続されている。また、洗浄槽 21A においても、処理槽 21 と同様のウエハポート 57 が昇降手段昇降制御手段（共に図示せず）によって昇降可能に配設されている。

【0051】上記のように、洗浄槽 21A に純水噴射ノズル 64 を配設することにより、処理槽 21 内に貯留された処理液例えば HF に浸漬されて薬液処理されたウエハ W を洗浄槽 21A 内に貯留された洗浄液例えば純水 L に浸漬する前に、ウエハ W の下部及び下部保持棒 57a 付近に、純水噴射ノズル 64 から純水 L を液幕状に噴射することで、ウエハ W の下部表面に残留する処理液に付着するパーティクルを洗浄除去することができる。したがって、薬液処理されたウエハ W は、薬液処理後にウエハ W の下部表面に残留する薬液（処理液）に付着するパ

ーティクルを除去した状態で洗浄槽 21A 内に貯留された洗浄液例えば純水 L に浸漬されて洗浄処理が施される。

【0052】なお、上記実施形態では、洗浄槽 21A の上部に純水噴射ノズル 64 を配設して、洗浄槽 21A 内に投入される前のウエハ W の下部を洗浄する場合について説明したが、必ずしもこのような構造とする必要はなく、上記処理槽 21 の上部に純水噴射ノズル 64 を配設して、処理槽 21 から引き上げられたウエハ W の下部及び下部保持棒 57a に同様に純水を液幕状に噴射して洗浄するようにしてもよい。また、洗浄槽 21A と処理槽 21 の双方に純水噴射ノズル 64 を配設して、処理槽 21 から引き上げられたウエハ W の下部及び下部保持棒 57a と、洗浄槽 21A 内に投入される前のウエハ W の下部及び下部保持棒 57a に向けて純水を液幕状に噴射してウエハ W の下部に付着するパーティクルを除去するようにしてもよい。このように薬液処理直後、及び洗浄処理直前の双方にてウエハ W の下部を洗浄することにより、ウエハ W に付着するパーティクルを更に確実に除去することができる。

【0053】◎第二実施形態

図 7 はこの発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第二実施形態の要部を示す概略断面図である。

【0054】第二実施形態は、薬液処理されたウエハ W の下部に付着するパーティクルを上記第一実施形態とは別の手段で除去するようにした場合である。この場合、基板洗浄処理装置 20A は、上記第一実施形態における純水噴射ノズル 64 を除去した構造で、洗浄槽 21A 内の底部に配設される純水供給ノズル 58A を純水供給管 62A を介して純水供給源 63 に接続してなり、また、一対の下部保持棒 57a と側部保持棒 57b とを具備するウエハポート 57 は、図示しない昇降手段によって昇降可能に構成されている。なお、その他の部分は上記第一実施形態と同じであるので、同一部分には同一符号を付して説明は省略する。

【0055】上記のように構成される基板洗浄処理装置 20A において、処理槽 21 内に貯留された処理液例えば HF に浸漬されて薬液処理されたウエハ W を、洗浄槽 21A 内に貯留され、洗浄槽 21A からオーバーフローする洗浄液例えば純水 L 中に浸漬する際、図 7 に示すように、昇降手段（図 4 参照）を制御して、ウエハ W の下部あるいはウエハポート 57 の下部保持棒 57a が純水 L の液面に浸かった状態で所定時間例えば 0.5 秒間停止してウエハ W の下部に付着したパーティクルを純水 L 中にすばやく拡散させ洗浄することができる。つまり、ウエハ W の下部に付着したパーティクルは、オーバーフローの流れに乗って拡散される。このようにして、薬液処理されたウエハ W の下部に付着したパーティクルを除去した後、ウエハ W を洗浄槽 21A 内に貯留された純水 L 中に浸漬して洗浄処理を施すことができる。したがっ

て、ウエハW上へのパーティクルの再付着を防止することができる。

【0056】◎第三実施形態

図8はこの発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第三実施形態の一例を示す概略断面図である。

【0057】第三実施形態は、ウエハWの薬液及び洗浄処理を、清浄気体例えば清浄空気が上方から下方へ流れるダウンフローの雰囲気下で行う場合のエッチング不均一を解消するようにした場合である。すなわち、薬液処理されたウエハWを、処理槽21から引き上げ、別の処理槽21あるいは洗浄槽21Aに搬送する間に、ウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFが、重力及びダウンフローの清浄気体例えば清浄空気の流れによってウエハWの下部側に流れて、ウエハWの上部のHFが切れることによるエッチングの不均一を防止するようにした場合である。

【0058】この場合、第三実施形態の基板線上処理装置20Bは、処理槽21及び洗浄槽21A（図面では、処理槽21の場合を示す。）の上方に配設されるフィルタユニット70のファン71の回転駆動手段例えばファンモータ72の駆動を制御部73からの信号によって制御可能に構成されている。

【0059】なお、第三実施形態において、その他の部分は上記第一実施形態及び第二実施形態と同じであるので、同一部分には同一符号を付して、説明は省略する。

【0060】上記のように構成することにより、処理槽21内の処理液例えばHFに浸漬されて薬液処理されたウエハWを処理槽21から引き上げて、別の処理槽21又は洗浄槽21Aに搬送する場合、上記制御部73からの制御信号によってファンモータ72の回転を低速にして清浄空気の量すなわちダウンフローの量を、図8に一点鎖線で示す通常の状態から実線で示す減少状態、すなわちウエハWの処理中や洗浄中のダウンフロー量と比較して弱くして、ウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFの下部側への流れを抑制することができる。したがって、薬液処理されたウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFがウエハWの上部から流れ落ちる量を少なくすることができるので、ウエハW表面に形成された酸化膜のエッチングの均一性の向上を図ることができる。なお、ウエハWの処理中や洗浄中で、ウエハWを搬送していないときは、通常のダウンフロー量で処理部雰囲気中のパーティクルの発生を抑えるようにしておく。

【0061】なお、上記説明では、フィルタユニット70のファンモータ72を低速にして清浄空気の量を減少させてウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFの下方へ流れ落ちる量をすくなくしているが、ファンモータ72の回転を停止して、清浄空気のダウンフロー量を零にして、同様にウエハWの上部から流れ落ちる量を減少させるようにしてもよい。

【0062】◎第四実施形態

図9はこの発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第四実施形態を示す概略断面図である。

【0063】第四実施形態は、薬液処理されたウエハWを、別の処理槽21又は洗浄槽21Aに搬送する場合に、ウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFがウエハWの下部側に流れ落ちるのを積極的に防止して、ウエハWの表面に形成される酸化膜のエッチングの均一性の向上を図れるようにした場合である。

【0064】この場合、基板洗浄処理装置20Cは、処理槽21及び洗浄槽21A（図面では、処理槽21の場合を示す。）の上部の両側に、処理槽21から引き上げられたウエハWの下部から上方に向かって清浄気体例えば清浄空気あるいは窒素（N₂）ガスを吹き付ける清浄気体噴射手段例えばN₂ガス噴射ノズル74を具備してなる。これらN₂ガス噴射ノズル74は、開閉弁77を介設するN₂ガス供給管75を介してN₂ガス供給源76に接続されている。

【0065】なお、第四実施形態において、その他の部分は、上記第一実施形態及び第二実施形態と同じであるので、同一部分には同一符号を付して、説明は省略する。

【0066】上記のように構成することにより、処理槽21内に貯留された処理液例えばHFに浸漬されて薬液処理されたウエハWを処理槽21から引き上げて、別の処理槽21又は洗浄槽21Aに搬送する場合に、上記N₂ガス噴射ノズル74からウエハWの下部から上方に向かってN₂ガスを吹き付けることにより、ウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFがウエハWの上部から流れ落ちる量を少なくすることができる。したがって、ウエハW表面に形成された酸化膜のエッチングの均一性の向上を図ることができる。

【0067】なお、上記説明では、N₂ガス噴射ノズル74が処理槽21の上方に配設されて、処理槽21から引き上げられたウエハWの下部から上方に向けてN₂ガスを吹き付けるようにした場合について説明したが、必ずしもこのような構造とする必要はない。例えば、N₂ガス噴射ノズル74を洗浄槽21Aの上方に配設して、洗浄槽21Aに投入されるウエハWの下部から上方に向けてN₂ガスを吹き付けるようにしてもよい。また、薬液処理されたウエハWを別の処理槽21又は洗浄槽21Aに搬送する途中にN₂ガス噴射ノズル74を配設して、上記と同様にN₂ガスを吹き付けるようにしてもよい。更には、図10に示すように、ウエハ搬送チャック15の例えば下部側にN₂ガス噴射ノズル74Aを設けるようにしてもよい。

【0068】なお、上記実施形態では、ウエハWの搬送をウエハ搬送チャック15にて行い、ウエハWの処理槽21又は洗浄槽21Aへの投入（下降）、引き上げ（上昇）をウエハポート57にて行う場合について説明したが、この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置は、必ずしもこの

ような構造に限定されるものではない。例えば、図11に示すように、被処理基板搬送手段例えばウエハ搬送チャック15Aを水平のX方向及び垂直方向(Z方向)に移動可能に形成して、ウエハWの処理槽21及び洗浄槽21Aへの搬送と、処理槽21又は洗浄槽21Aに対するウエハWの投入(下降)及び引き上げ(上昇)を行えるように形成してもよい。なお、この場合、ウエハ搬送チャック15Aは、一対の回転可能な水平支持軸15aにそれぞれ装着される略逆U字状の保持フレーム15bを具備してなり、各保持フレーム15bの下端部及びその上方にそれぞれ下部保持棒15c及び側部保持棒15dを横架した構造となっている。そして、図示しない駆動手段によって水平支持軸15Aが回転して複数枚例えば50枚のウエハWを保持して、水平のX方向及び垂直方向(Z方向)に移動し得るように構成されている。

【0069】また、上記実施形態では、この発明の洗浄処理装置を半導体ウエハの洗浄処理システムに適用した場合について説明したが、半導体ウエハ以外の例えばLCD基板の洗浄処理装置にも適用できることは勿論である。

【0070】

【実施例】☆実施例-1

上記第二実施形態の基板洗浄処理装置を用いた場合のウエハWに再付着するパーティクル量(実施例)と、上記基板洗浄処理装置を用いない場合のウエハWに再付着するパーティクル量(比較例)とを、比較するための実験結果について説明する。

【0071】比較例のウエハWを、処理液例えば25℃の希フッ化水素(DHF; 1:50)に浸漬した後、洗浄液例えば純水中に3分間浸漬した場合、処理前すなわちDHFに浸漬した後のウエハWに付着したパーティクルの状態は、表1及び図13に示す通りであったが、処理後すなわち純水に浸漬した後のウエハWに再付着したパーティクルAの状態は、表1及び図14に示す通りであった。なお、図13、図14において、符号NはウエハWの外周縁に設けられたノッチである。

【0072】

【表1】

| パーティクルの サイズ(μm) | 比較例 | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 0.16-0.20 | 15 | 200 | 185 |
| 0.20-0.25 | 13 | 199 | 186 |
| 0.25-0.30 | 8 | 105 | 97 |
| 0.30-0.50 | 6 | 113 | 107 |
| 0.50-1.00 | 2 | 64 | 62 |
| 1.00- | 2 | 56 | 54 |
| 合計 | 46 | 737 | 691 |

【0073】これに対し、実施例のウエハWを、比較例とは別に処理液例えば25℃の希フッ化水素(DHF; 1:50)に浸漬した後、図12に示すように、位置PからP5まで500mm/secの速度で移動した後、

位置P5から純水の液面位置P6まで250mm/secの速度で移動して、ウエハWの下部を純水の液面に0.5sec間浸けてウエハWの下部に付着するパーティクルを除去した後、P6からP8の位置まで500mm/secの速度で移動して浸漬処理を施した場合、処理前すなわちDHFに浸漬した後のウエハWに付着したパーティクルの状態は、表2及び図15に示す通りであったが、処理後すなわち純水に浸漬した後のウエハWに再付着したパーティクルAの状態は、表2及び図16に示す通りであった。

【0074】

【表2】

| パーティクルの サイズ(μm) | 実施例 | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|
| | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 0.16-0.20 | 127 | 157 | 30 |
| 0.20-0.25 | 22 | 44 | 22 |
| 0.25-0.30 | 15 | 27 | 12 |
| 0.30-0.50 | 14 | 27 | 13 |
| 0.50-1.00 | 10 | 17 | 7 |
| 1.00- | 15 | 28 | 13 |
| 合計 | 203 | 300 | 97 |

【0075】上記実験の結果、比較例においては、処理前のパーティクルの総数が46個であったのが、処理後においては、パーティクル総数が737個と691個(約15倍増加)も増加していることが判った。これに対し、実施例においては、処理前のパーティクルの総数が203個であったのが、処理後においては、パーティクル総数が300個であり、僅か97個(約0.48倍減少)の増加であった。したがって、薬液処理した後の、ウエハWの下部を洗浄液例えば純水に所定時間例えば0.5sec浸けてウエハWの下部に付着したパーティクルを除去した後、洗浄液例えば純水に浸漬する方がパーティクルによる汚れが著しく少ないことが判った。

【0076】☆実施例-2

上記第四実施形態の基板洗浄処理装置を用いて、薬液処理後のウエハWに向かって清浄気体例えばN2ガスを吹き付けた場合(強制風有りの場合)のウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFによるエッチング量(実施例)と、清浄気体例えばN2ガスを吹き付けない場合(強制風無しの場合)のウエハWに残留する処理液例えばHFによるエッチング量(比較例)とを、比較するための実験結果について説明する。

【0077】比較例の複数枚例えば50枚のウエハWを、希フッ化水素(DHF; 5:1)による処理(1min)-超純水によるリンス処理(5.5min)-乾燥処理(9min)の工程で洗浄処理する過程において、薬液処理後、別の処理槽又は洗浄槽に搬送する際、ウエハWにN2ガスを吹き付けない場合(強制風無しの場合)の処理前と処理後の26枚目のウエハWの各測定点のエッチング量を調べたところ、表3及び図17に示すような結果が得られた。

【0078】

* * 【表3】

| 測定点 | 座標 | | スロット26 | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------|
| | X | Y | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 997.89 | 223.18 | 774.7 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 997.87 | 223.13 | 774.7 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 997.96 | 223.1 | 774.9 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 997.93 | 223.13 | 774.8 |
| 5 | 50 | 0 | 997.95 | 229.28 | 768.7 |
| 6 | 0 | 50 | 997.49 | 235.71 | 761.8 |
| 7 | -60 | 0 | 997.67 | 233.16 | 764.5 |
| 8 | 0 | -50 | 998.27 | 224.85 | 773.4 |
| 9 | 100 | 0 | 997.71 | 226.93 | 770.8 |
| 10 | 70.711 | 70.711 | 997.54 | 234.94 | 762.6 |
| 11 | 0 | 100 | 998.18 | 243.21 | 755.0 |
| 12 | -70.711 | 70.711 | 997.52 | 241.79 | 755.7 |
| 13 | -100 | 0 | 998.48 | 233.37 | 765.1 |
| 14 | -70.711 | -70.711 | 997.84 | 230.97 | 766.9 |
| 15 | 0 | -100 | 998.82 | 224.08 | 774.7 |
| 16 | 70.711 | -70.711 | 998.88 | 225.91 | 773.0 |
| 17 | 145 | 0 | 998.06 | 215.73 | 782.3 |
| 18 | 133.96 | 55.49 | 996.41 | 236.87 | 759.5 |
| 19 | 102.53 | 102.53 | 995.89 | 306 | 689.9 |
| 20 | 55.49 | 133.96 | 997.02 | 230.15 | 766.9 |
| 21 | 0 | 145 | 996.8 | 237.97 | 758.8 |
| 22 | -55.49 | 133.96 | 996.76 | 237.33 | 759.4 |
| 23 | -102.531 | 102.53 | 997.47 | 237.4 | 760.1 |
| 24 | -133.96 | 55.49 | 997.57 | 228.73 | 768.8 |
| 25 | -145 | 0 | 1039.2 | 283.49 | 745.7 |
| 26 | -133.96 | -55.49 | 997.58 | 227.47 | 770.1 |
| 27 | -102.53 | -102.531 | 994.79 | 230.04 | 764.8 |
| 28 | -55.49 | -133.96 | 995.89 | 231.53 | 764.2 |
| 29 | 0 | -145 | 1005.5 | 299.32 | 706.2 |
| 30 | 55.49 | -133.96 | 1030 | 347.36 | 682.6 |
| 31 | 102.531 | -102.53 | 1005.2 | 310.68 | 694.5 |
| 32 | 133.96 | -55.49 | 998.08 | 274.53 | 723.6 |
| 平均エッチング量(Average) | | | | | 755.9 |
| 最大エッチング量(Maximum) | | | | | 782.3 |
| 最小エッチング量(Minimum) | | | | | 682.6 |
| 変動量(Range) | | | | | 99.7 |
| 標準偏差(Sigma) | | | | | 26.4 |
| Range/2Average | | | | | 6.6 |
| Sigma/Average | | | | | 3.5 |

【0079】これに対し、実施例の複数枚例えば50枚のウエハWを、希フッ化水素(DHF;50:1)による処理(5min)又は希フッ化水素(DHF;5:1)による処理(1min)-超純水によるリンス処理(5.5min)-乾燥処理(9min)の工程で洗浄処理する過程において、薬液処理後、別の処理槽又は洗

浄槽に搬送する際、ウエハWにN₂ガスを吹き付けた場合(強制風有りの場合)の26枚目のウエハWの各測定点の処理前と処理後のエッチング量を調べたところ、表4及び図17に示すような結果が得られた。

【0080】

【表4】

| 測定点 | 座標 | | スロット26 | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------|
| | X | Y | 処理前 | 処理後 | 差 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 994.15 | 235.57 | 758.6 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 994 | 235.58 | 758.4 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 994.23 | 235.54 | 758.7 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 994.07 | 235.59 | 758.5 |
| 5 | 50 | 0 | 995.51 | 238.55 | 757.0 |
| 6 | 0 | 50 | 994.73 | 242.36 | 752.4 |
| 7 | -50 | 0 | 994.42 | 241.38 | 753.0 |
| 8 | 0 | -50 | 994.61 | 230.75 | 763.9 |
| 9 | 100 | 0 | 995.67 | 235.99 | 759.9 |
| 10 | 70.711 | 70.711 | 996.53 | 242.18 | 754.4 |
| 11 | 0 | 100 | 996.32 | 249.19 | 747.1 |
| 12 | -70.711 | 70.711 | 996.84 | 248.41 | 747.4 |
| 13 | -100 | 0 | 996.21 | 240.41 | 755.8 |
| 14 | -70.711 | -70.711 | 996.13 | 228.82 | 767.3 |
| 15 | 0 | -100 | 996.12 | 230.84 | 765.3 |
| 16 | 70.711 | -70.711 | 996.72 | 233.33 | 763.4 |
| 17 | 145 | 0 | 997.76 | 241.46 | 756.3 |
| 18 | 133.96 | 55.49 | 1027.2 | 278.12 | 749.1 |
| 19 | 102.53 | 102.53 | 998.65 | 237.46 | 761.2 |
| 20 | 55.49 | 133.96 | 996.19 | 234.62 | 761.6 |
| 21 | 0 | 145 | 992.57 | 246.31 | 746.3 |
| 22 | -55.49 | 133.96 | 994.14 | 243.65 | 750.5 |
| 23 | -102.531 | 102.53 | 994.97 | 245.56 | 749.4 |
| 24 | -133.96 | 55.49 | 996.07 | 240.63 | 755.4 |
| 25 | -145 | 0 | 996.77 | 232.69 | 764.1 |
| 26 | -133.96 | -55.49 | 999.71 | 230.26 | 769.5 |
| 27 | -102.53 | -102.531 | 996.45 | 233.21 | 763.2 |
| 28 | -55.49 | -133.96 | 996.26 | 243.45 | 752.8 |
| 29 | 0 | -145 | 1005.1 | 250.39 | 754.7 |
| 30 | 55.49 | -133.96 | 1047.3 | 315.2 | 732.1 |
| 31 | 102.531 | -102.53 | 1013.5 | 268.21 | 745.3 |
| 32 | 133.96 | -55.49 | 995.64 | 237.14 | 758.5 |
| 平均エッチング量(Average) | | | | | 756.0 |
| 最大エッチング量(Maximum) | | | | | 769.5 |
| 最小エッチング量(Minimum) | | | | | 732.1 |
| 変動量(Range) | | | | | 37.4 |
| 標準偏差(Sigma) | | | | | 7.7 |
| Range/2Average | | | | | 2.5 |
| Sigma/Average | | | | | 1.0 |

【0081】上記実験の結果、薬液処理後にウエハWの下部から上方に向けてN₂ガスを吹き付けることにより、エッチング量の均一性が図れることが判った。

【0082】

【発明の効果】以上に説明したように、この発明の基板洗浄処理方法及び基板洗浄処理装置によれば、以下のような効果が得られる。

【0083】(1)請求項1～6、9、10記載の発明によれば、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に浸漬して洗浄処理する過程において、被処理基板が処理液又は洗浄液に浸漬される際、あるいは処理液又は洗浄液から露呈された際の少なくとも一方において、被処理基板の下部を洗浄液で洗浄することで、被処理基板の表面に残存する処理液中のゴミを除去することができるので、被処理基板へのパーティクルの再付着を防止すると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることができる。

【0084】(2)請求項7又は11記載の発明によれ

ば、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させて洗浄処理する過程において、被処理基板の処理を、洗浄気体が上方から下方へ流れる雰囲気下で行い、処理液での処理が終わった被処理基板を、別の処理液又は洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、洗浄気体の流れを弱めるか、停止させることで、処理液による処理後に被処理基板上の処理液の下方への流れを防止することができるので、被処理基板の処理液によるエッチング均一性の向上を図ることができると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることができる。

【0085】(3)請求項8又は13記載の発明によれば、被処理基板を垂直状態にして処理液と洗浄液に接触させて洗浄処理する過程において、処理液での処理が終わった被処理基板を、別の処理液又は洗浄液の処理部に搬送する際、被処理基板の下部から上方に向かって洗浄気体を吹き付けることで、処理液による処理後に被処理基板上の処理液の下方への流れを防止することができる

ので、被処理基板の処理液によるエッチング均一性の向上を図ることができると共に、製品歩留まりの向上を図ることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置を適用した基板洗浄処理システムの一例を示す概略平面図である。

【図2】この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第一実施形態を示す概略側面図である。

【図3】上記基板洗浄処理装置の背面図である。

【図4】上記基板洗浄処理装置を示す断面図である。

【図5】上記基板洗浄処理装置の要部を示す断面図である。

【図6】被処理基板であるウエハの下部の洗浄領域と製品領域を示す概略正面図である。

【図7】この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第二実施形態を示す概略断面図である。

【図8】この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第三実施形態を示す概略断面図である。

【図9】この発明に係る基板洗浄処理装置の第四実施形態を示す概略断面図である。

【図10】この発明における清浄気体噴射手段の別の取付状態を示す概略側面図(a)及びその正面図(b)である。

【図11】この発明における被処理基板搬送手段の別の形態を示す概略斜視図である。

【図12】上記第二実施形態の基板洗浄処理装置を用いてウエハに付着するパーティクル量を調べる実験の手順を示す概略図である。

【図13】比較例のウエハの洗浄処理前のパーティクル付着状態を示す説明図である。

【図14】比較例のウエハの洗浄処理後のパーティクル付着状態を示す説明図である。

【図15】実施例のウエハの洗浄処理前のパーティクル付着状態を示す説明図である。

*【図16】実施例のウエハの洗浄処理後のパーティクル付着状態を示す説明図である。

【図17】薬液処理後のウエハの下部から上方に向けてN₂ガスを吹き付ける場合(実施例)と、吹き付けない場合(比較例)におけるエッチング均一性を示すグラフである。

【図18】酸化膜を形成するウエハとシリコン製ウエハへの処理液及びパーティクル付着量を調べるためのウエハの配列状態を示す概略側面図(a)、処理液及びパーティクルの付着状態を示す概略断面図(b)及びパーティクルの再付着状態を示す概略断面図(c)である。

【図19】薬液処理後のウエハに薬液が付着した状態を示す概略断面図(a)及びウエハに付着する薬液が下方に流れる状態を示す概略正面図(b)である。

【符号の説明】

W 半導体ウエハ(被処理基板)

L 純水(洗浄液)

15、15A ウエハ搬送チャック(被処理基板搬送手段)

20 21 処理槽

21A 洗浄槽

38 気流調整板

57 ウエハポート(保持手段)

63 純水供給源

64 純水噴射ノズル(洗浄液噴射手段)

70 フィルタユニット

71 ファン

72 ファンモータ

73 制御部

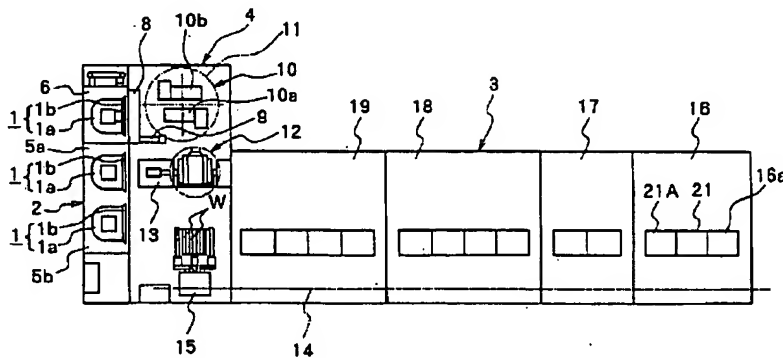
30 74、74A N₂ガス噴射ノズル(清浄気体噴射手段)

76 N₂ガス供給源

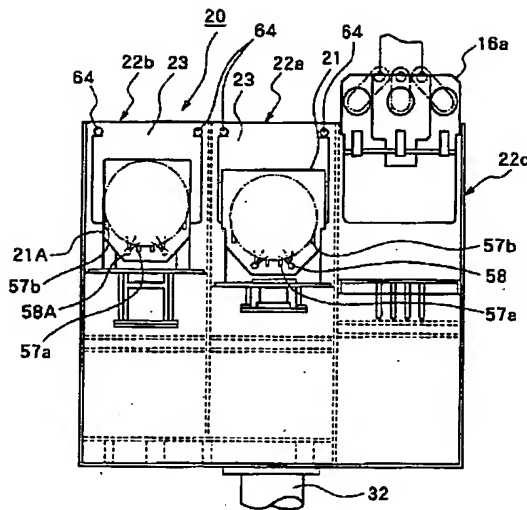
80 昇降手段

* 81 昇降制御手段

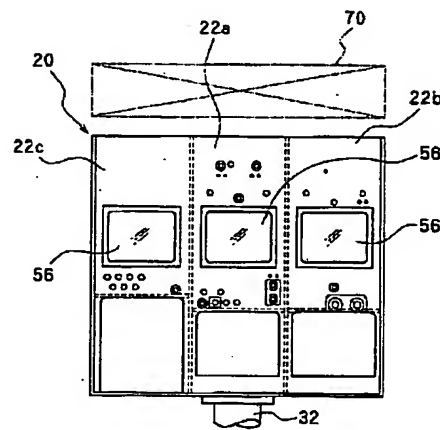
【図1】



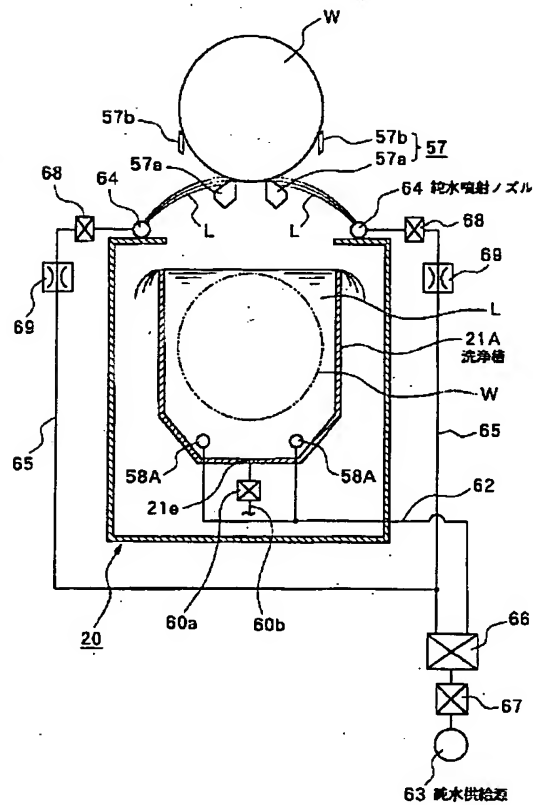
【図2】



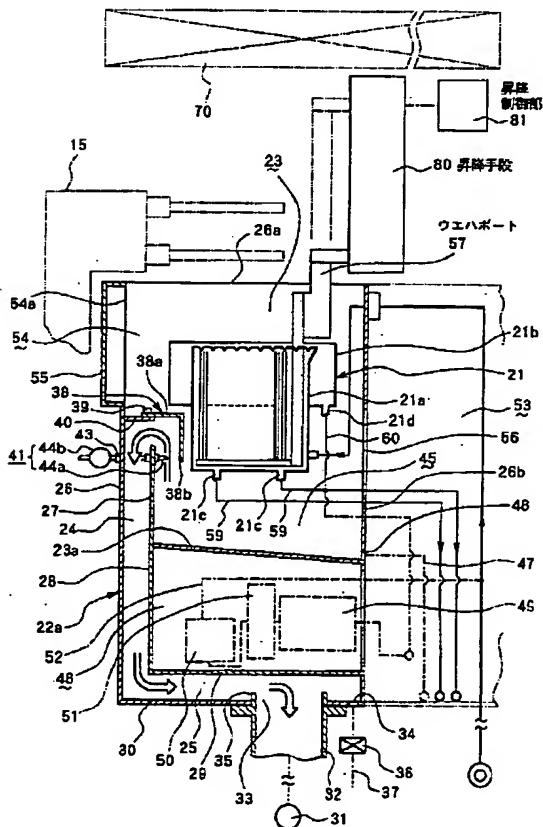
【図3】



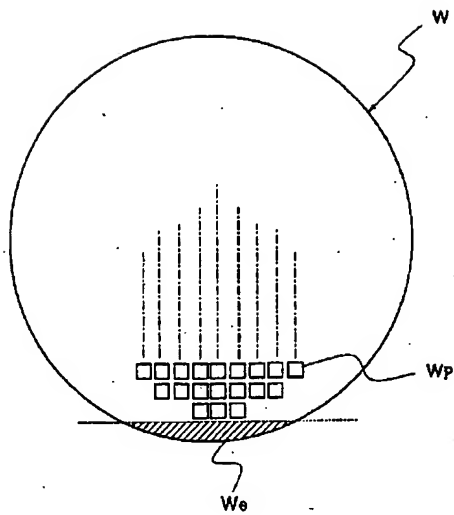
【図5】



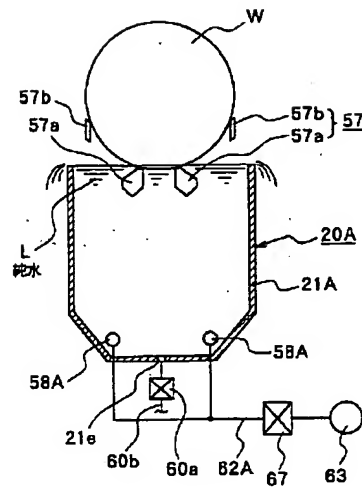
【図4】



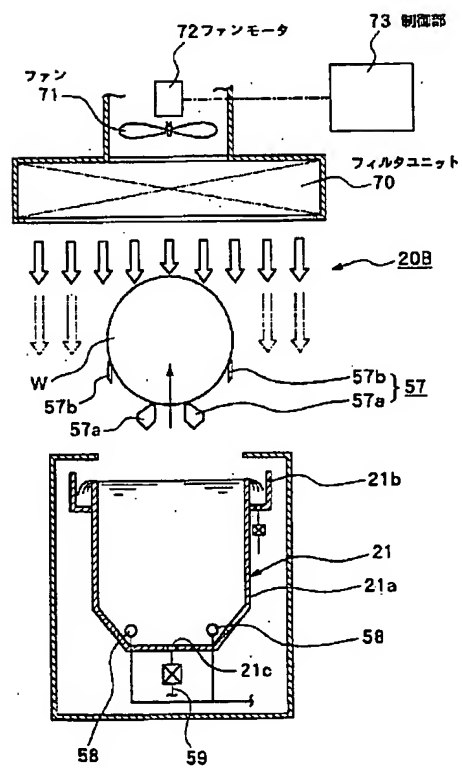
【図6】



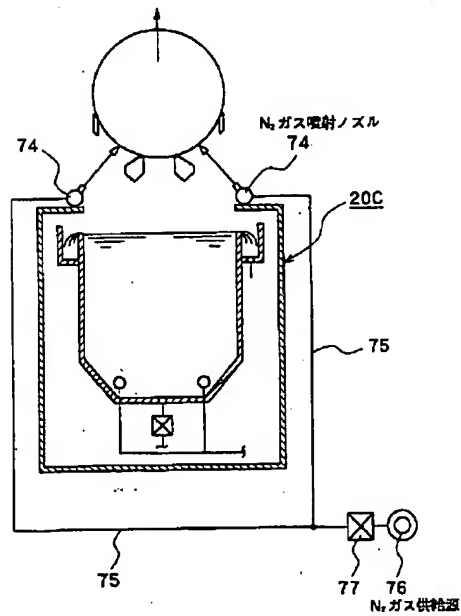
【図7】



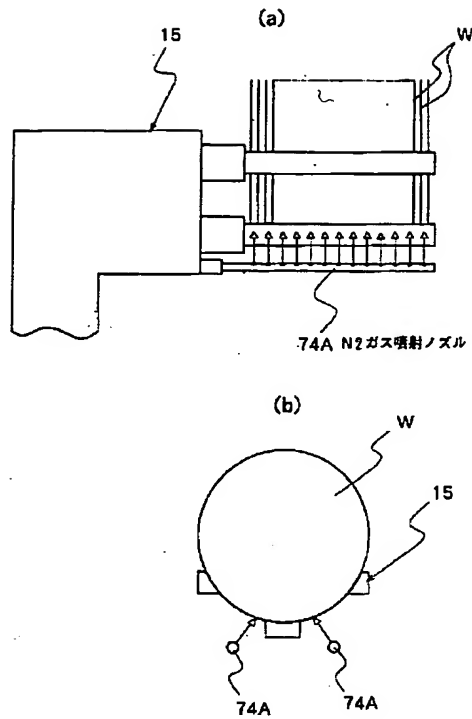
【図8】



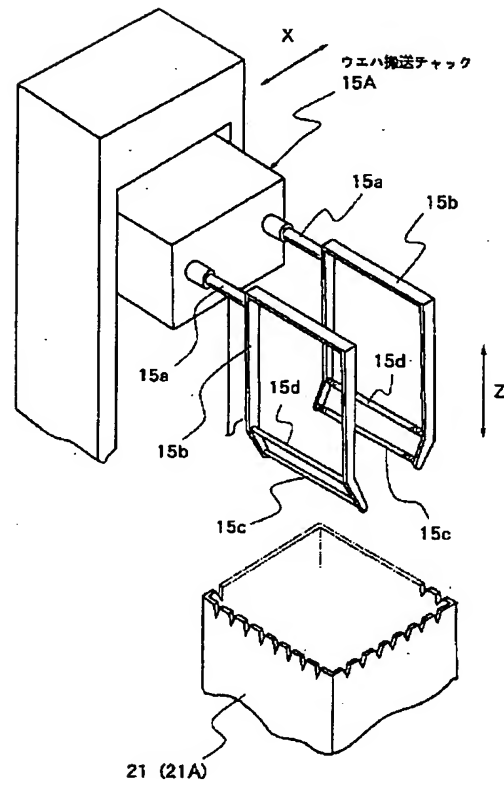
【図9】



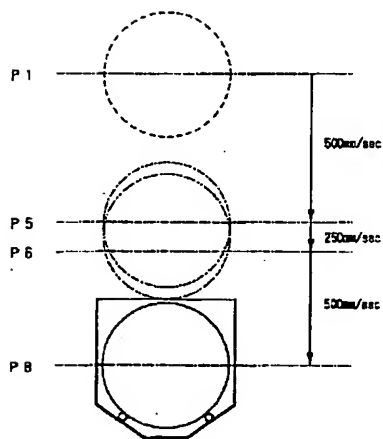
【図10】



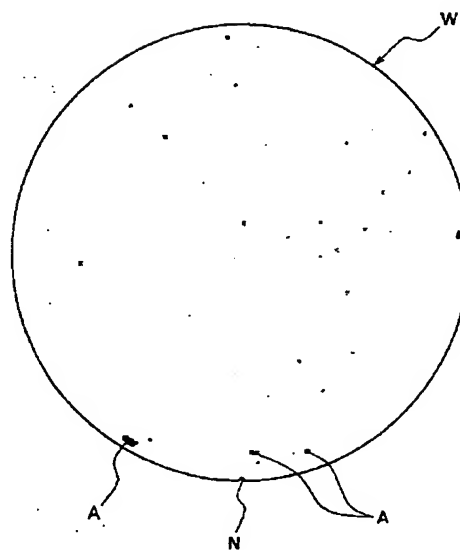
【図11】



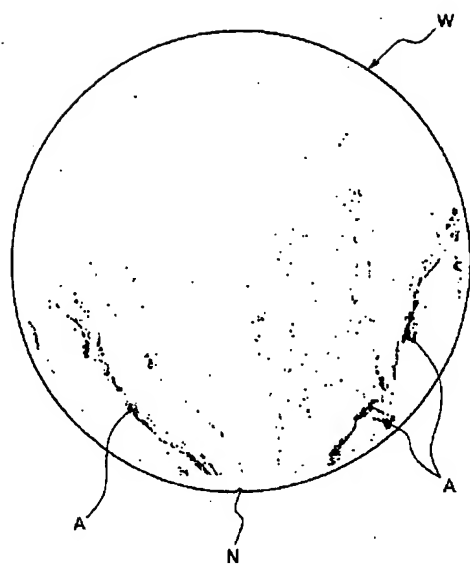
【図12】



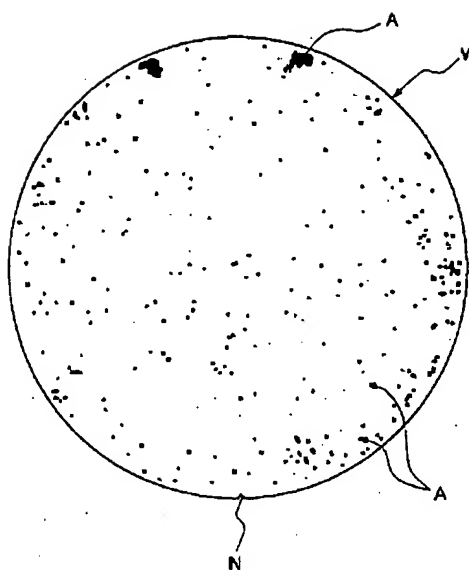
【図13】



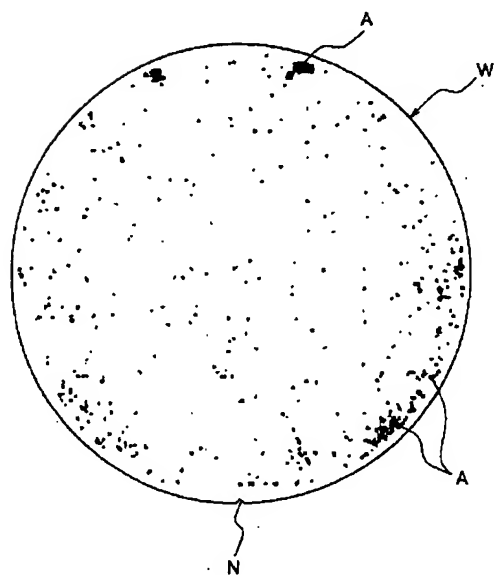
【図14】



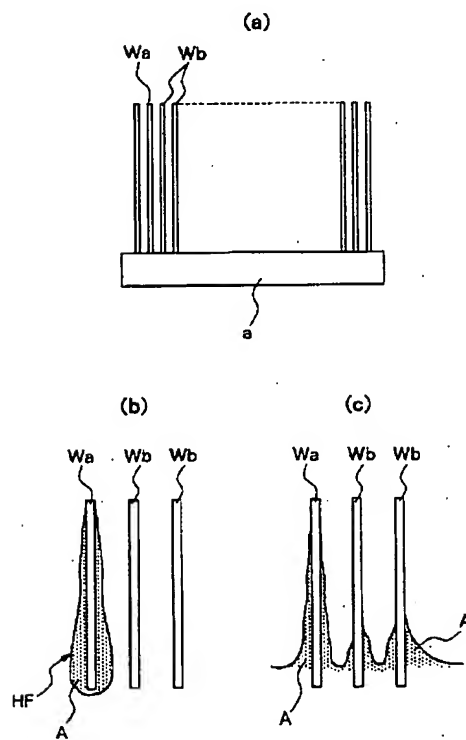
【図15】



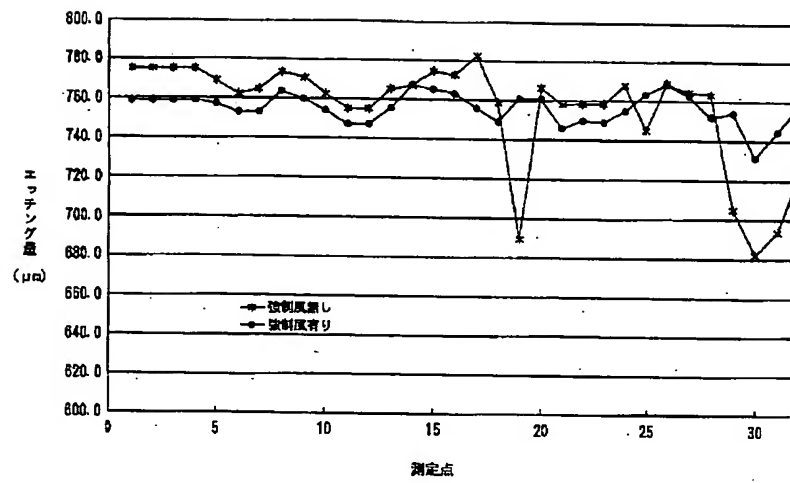
【図16】



【図18】



【図17】



【図19】

